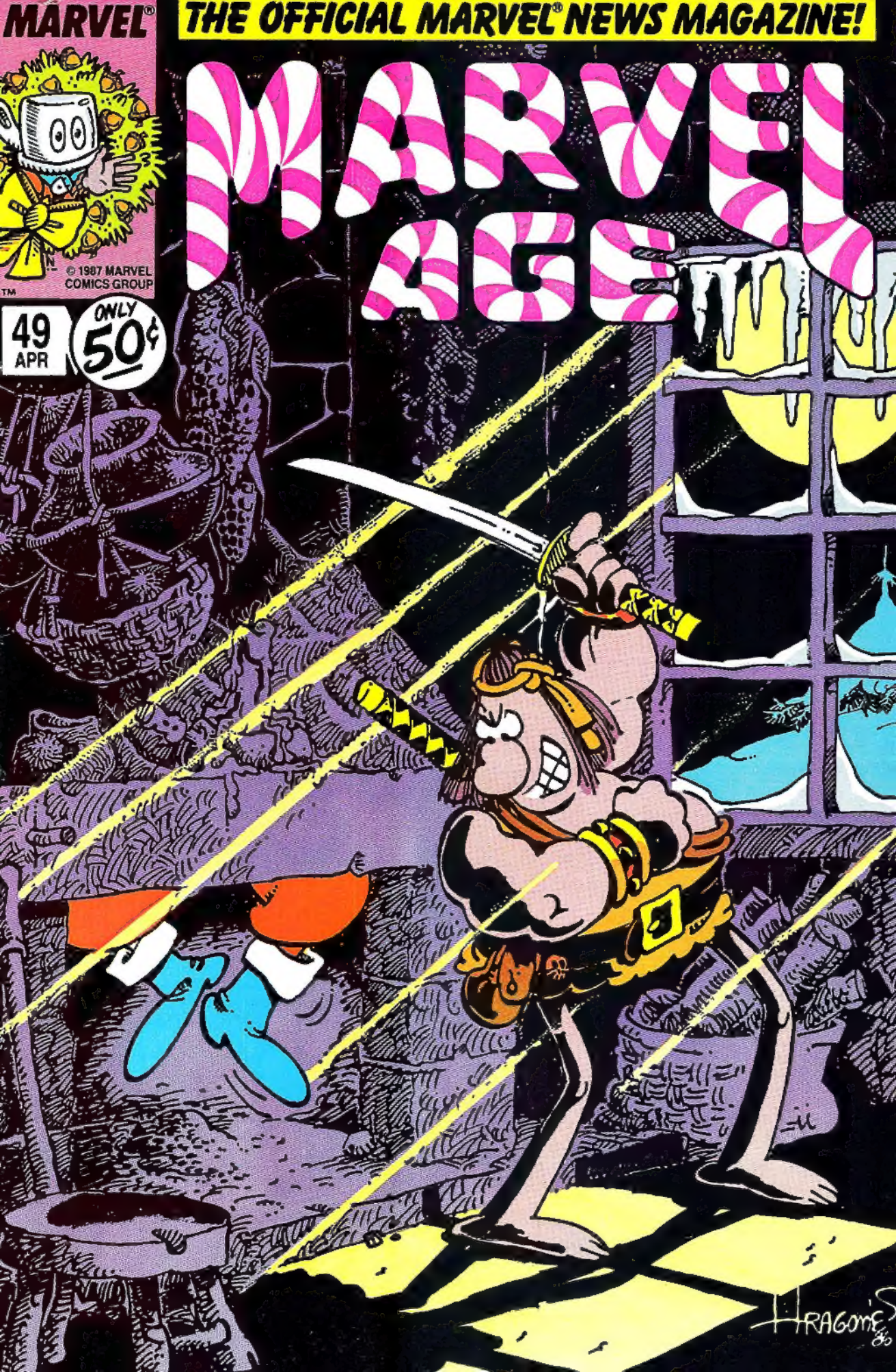
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Stan Lee presents

# MARVEL AGE®

# SCROOGE SALICRUP'S SECTION

Bah, **Hembeck**! No, I meant—Bah! Humbug!

I'm sick and tired of Christmas! I can't stand it anymore! Good ol' **Groo**, this month's cover boy, has stumbled on to the right way to greet the holidays—heavily armed! My idea for the perfect X-Mas movie would be GREMLINS VERSUS SANTA CLAUS: THE MOVIE—with **Stripe** and his gang clobbering **Dudley** the elf!

Hey, does anyone really like sending out Christmas cards? If you do, a thrilling career addressing envelopes awaits you. And, if you're a nut, like I am, and you can't throw anything away, you wind up with hundreds and hundreds of Christmas cards. (Henson Associates, LucasFilms, and comic-book artists send the best cards, by the way.)

Christmas trees are the worst, though. I haven't had a tree in over ten years, and I don't miss 'em at all. Seriously, they're quite a fire hazard. If you have a tree, be careful! Make sure your smoke alarms are working. When you have as many comic books, magazines, and books as I do, the appeal of hanging ornaments on a potential inferno is nonexistent! If trees must be chopped down, then I say they should be turned into paper for comic books!

And don't get me started on Christmas parties . . . ! If I wanted to hang around with drunks, I would've become a bartender! My advice is to stay off the roads during the holiday season—it just ain't safe!

If all that weren't bad enough, I still have to suffer through some of my favorite TV shows lecturing me on the true meaning of Christmas, and then reminding me of all those worse off than I—as if it were all my fault! Some fun, huh?

Then there is the matter of giving gifts. For all of you financially well-off folks out there, have a ball! If you simply can't get enough of the joy of giving, send me cash! Really. I won't mind a bit. I do remember, however, years ago when I was a kid, my father feeling that he wasn't a good father unless he got me the present I wanted. Despite our hard times back then, he got it for me by gambling—he beat someone at bowling and won the money he needed. I never thought about the guy he beat until now. I wonder if he thought he wasn't a good father. The present my father gave me, eventually wound up like most Christmas toys—fun for a few weeks and then forgotten. Elsewhere in this issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE is a Marvel Wish List. If your parents are doing well and life is good, check off the items you desire and leave the Wish List where they'll be sure to see it. But if times are hard, give them a break. Let them know that their love for you is the only gift—and the most wonderful gift—that you'll ever want. Comic books are great—probably the best entertainment value today—but they'll always be around. If you can't get that Graphic Novel this year, it'll still be around next year.

Gee. Now that I've got that all off my chest, I'm beginning to feel a little bit better. Maybe I'll watch *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, and the Charlie Brown Christmas Special again this year. Hey, I better get a tape so I can record *Magoo's Christmas Carol*! It's my favorite version of the Dickens classic!

Happy holidays, enjoy the rest of the issue, and God bless **Tiny Tim**!

## MARVEL AGENDA


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# MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS

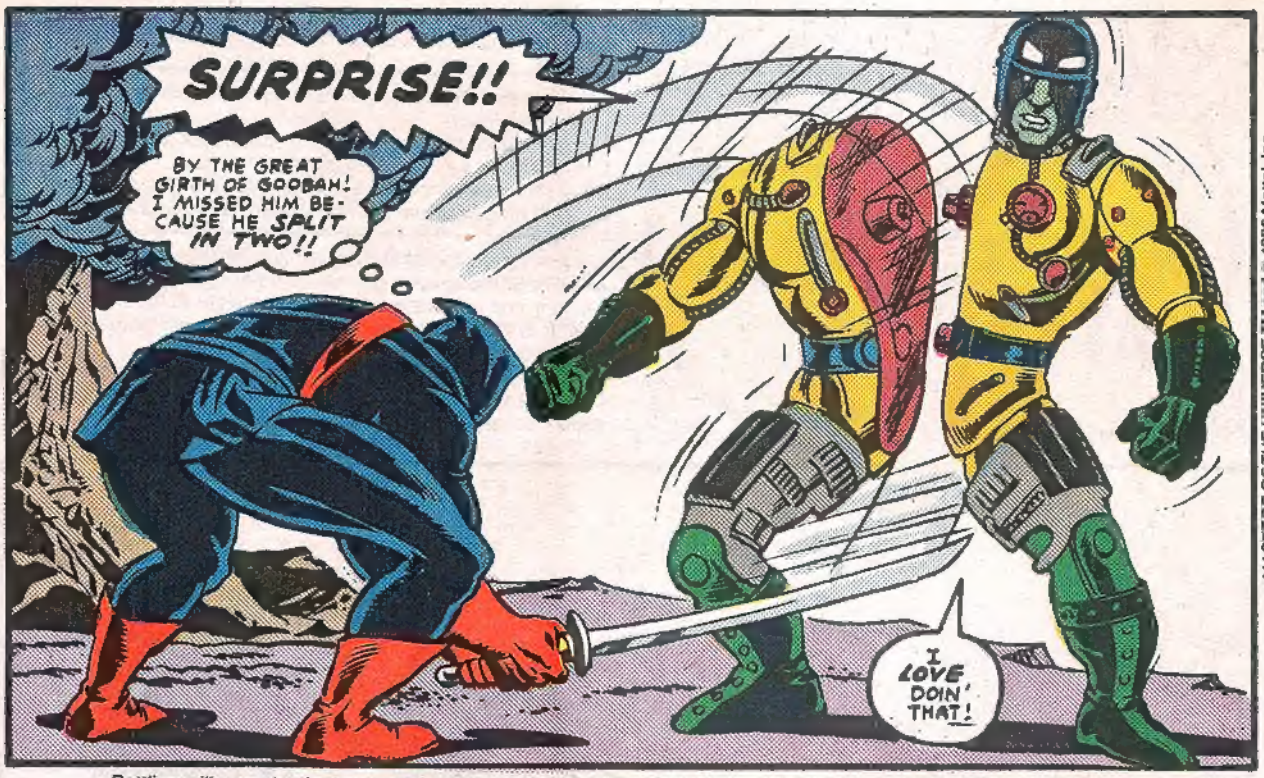
Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the **Marvel, Epic, Star** and **New Universe** titles bearing an **May** cover date.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.
A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.
A **Digest** is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.
A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.
**Shipping Date** refers to when the comics leave the printer.

A new generation of warriors join the ranks of **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI**! **Sasquatch** returns from the dead . . . but in a very different, and very unexpected, form in **ALPHA FLIGHT**! And in the **X-MEN, Dazzler** faces one of the uncanny mutants' greatest foes—and she does so alone!

That's just a hint of all the exciting things in store next month! Don't take a chance of missing out on the fun. Tell your comics shop owner right now that you want to reserve your favorite titles

*Comet Man has become a threat to Earth that only Mr. Fantastic and the Thing can eliminate in the COMET MAN Limited Series.*




*Battling will never be the same again, now that Skeletor has Blast Attak on his side in MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE.*

MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE TM and © 1986 Mattel, Inc.

## Titles Shipping January 6
## On Sale January 27

☐ **DAREDEVIL #242**—**Daredevil** has always been a super hero who upheld the law. But now **Daredevil's** changed. And when **Daredevil** confronts the **Caviar Killer**—the man who has been wantonly slaying the rich people in New York—in front of mobile television cameras, everyone discovers how shockingly brutal the Man Without Fear has become! "The Caviar Killer" is written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **Louis Williams**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

☐ **THE DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH #3**—The **Phantom** must combat the treachery of his evil brother, **M'Dama the Weather Wizard**! "A House Divided" is written by **Michael Higgins**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Fred Fredericks**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #7**—Their names are **Klamp Champ**, **Fakir**, **Ninjor**, **Blast-Attak**, and **Scareglow**! They're the tyrant **Skeletor's** latest—and greatest—team of merciless marauders! What happens when they clash with **He-Man** and his noble defenders of Eternia is . . . explosive! "Long Live the King!" is written by **Mike Carlin**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #6**—What will become of the first generation of **Morituri** champions of Mankind now that the even more amazing second generation of super-powered human warriors is ready to battle the alien **Horde**? For **Strikeforce: Morituri**, whose members are fated to die within a year, retirement is impossible! But acclaim is not—or is it? "Foray for Hollywood" is written by **Peter B. Gillis** and penciled by **Brent Anderson**. 75¢.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS #51**—**Professor X** orders **Xarma** to take possession of **Illyana's** body! Why would he issue such a command against a **New Mutant**? How will **Illyana** respond when she's regained control? Plus: **Storm** and **Magneto** at last decide what the **X-Men** and **New Mutants** will do against the malevolent **Hellfire Club**. "Teacher's Choice" is written by **Chris Claremont** and illustrated by **Kevin Nowlan**. 75¢.

☐ **PETER PORKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #15**—At last—the long-awaited origin of **Spider-Ham** is revealed! An innocent teen-aged spider is changed into a super-powered pig after being bitten by a radioactive **Aunt May**! "The Days of Swine and Roses" is written by **Steve Mellor**, penciled by **Joe Albelo**, and inked by **Pierre Fournier**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **THUNDERCATS #11**—The **Thundercats** face not one, but two races of foes determined to totally destroy the **Thundercats** in "The Enemy Below." Written by **Gerry Conway** and penciled by **Jose Delbo**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #26**—An exposure to toxic gas transforms **Spidey's** spider-sense from a weapon of defense into a weapon of self-destruction! "The Best Laid Plans" is written by **Stefan Petrucha** and **Len Kaminski**, penciled by **Tom Morgan**, and inked by **Mike Esposito**. 75¢.

### new universe

☐ **NIGHTMASK #7**—**Nightmask** must enter a young delinquent's dreams and stop him before he destroys himself! Written by **Roy Thomas**, illustrated by **Mike Hernandez**. 75¢.

☐ **PSI FORCE #7**—**Psi Force** leaves **San Francisco** for a sanctuary in Seattle which turns out to be everything else *but* a sanctuary! Written by **David Michelinie** and penciled by **Bob Hall**. 75¢.

☐ **SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS #12**—Could the final issue of the series also mean the death of the **Swashbucklers**? If the marauding **Colonizers** have their way against the outnumbered **Swashbucklers**, it will! Written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Geof Isherwood**, and inked by **Ricardo Villamonte**. An Epic comic. Direct Sales only. Baxter paper. $1.50.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #20**—How can the **West Coast Avengers** reverse their continuing slide back in time? The ancient Egyptian pharaoh **Rama Tut** possesses the answer—but will he reveal it? Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by Joe Sinnott. 75¢.

☐ **COMET MAN (Limited Series) #4**—**Comet Man** learns more about his powers, and what their awful consequences mean to his family. Meanwhile, a secret probe sent to Halley's Comet reveals an astonishing secret! "The Damage Done" is written by **Bill Mumy** and **Miguel Ferrer**, penciled by **Kelly Jones**, and inked by **Gerry Talaoc**. 75¢.

☐ **CONAN THE KING #40**—The fate of **Conan's** family may overwhelm **Conan's** need to end his war against the nations threatening to destroy his kingdom. "Of Sorcery and Steel" is written by **Don Kraar**, penciled by **Michael Docherty**, and inked by **Fraje Bator**. 48 pages. $1.25.

☐ **THE X-MEN VS. THE AVENGERS (Limited Series) #2**—When **Magneto** reaches the largest surviving fragment of his former base, Asteroid M, the **X-Men's** war against the **Soviet Super-Soldiers** and the **Avengers** really begins! Written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **Marc Silvestri**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. Baxter paper. $1.50.

## Titles Shipping January 13
## On Sale February 3

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #46**—**Walter Langkowski**—**Sasquatch**—is back from the dead! But the body he now possesses makes him wish he'd never returned to life! The incredible reason why is found in "Friends." Written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **June Brigman**, and inked by **Whilce Portacio**. 75¢.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #329**—**Captain America's** investigation into the illegal body-building techniques used by the **Super-Patriot** may spell **Cap's** doom. Plus: premiering the hardest-working henchmen ever—**the Sweat Shop**! Written by **Mark Gruenwald** and penciled by **Paul Neary**. 75¢.

☐ **CHUCK NORRIS KARATE KOMMANDOS #3**—Why is **Chuck Norris's** sidekick, **Tabé**, deliberately lying to the other **Karate Kommandos**? What reason is so important that he would feel compelled to deceive his friends? "Tabe's Story" is written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Steve Ditko**, and inked by **Jon D'Agostino**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **EWOKS #13**—**Wicket** is forced to enter the dread Labyrinth of the Black Caverns to uphold the honor of the **Ewoks**. If he fails, what will be the cost? "Test of Courage" is written by **Dave Manak**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jon D'Agostino**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **FALLEN ANGELS (Limited Series) #2**—The misfits of the **New Mutants** get into even more trouble than they believed possible in New York City. Plus: the origin of the **Fallen Angel Gomi**. "I'll Take the High Road, I'll Take the Low Road, and I'll Get to Sunspot Before You" is written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Kerry Gammill**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #27**—**Groo**, the world's klutziest barbarian, bumbles his way through a sword and cheesedip misadventure of his own making. By **Sergio Aragones** with **Mark Evanier**. An Epic comic. 75¢.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #288**—The **Kingpin** returns—alive! **Spider-Man** wanted for murder! And **Black Cat**, **Daredevil**, and the **Falcon** add to the mayhem! "The War Ends" is written by **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **Alan Kupperberg**, and inked by **Jim Fern**. 75¢.

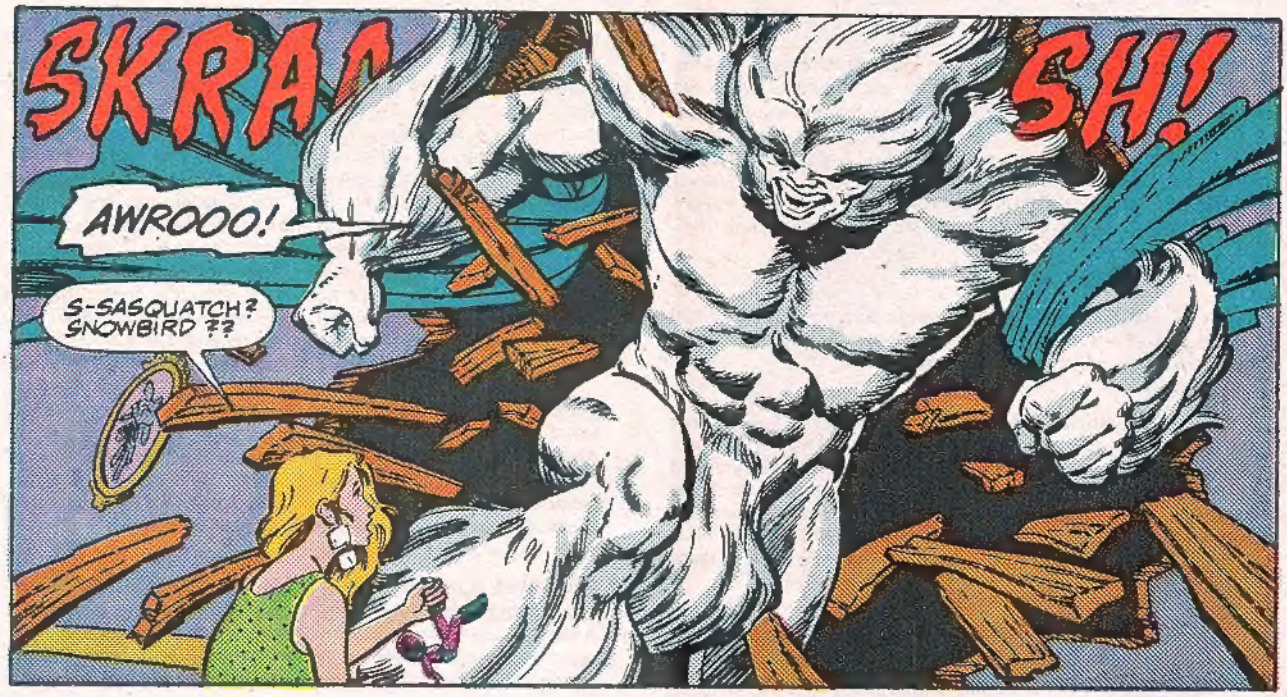
### new universe

☐ **KICKERS, INC. #7**—A top secret U.S. jet fighter goes down in international waters and the government asks **Kickers, Inc.** to rescue the pilots! A tie-in with **MARK HAZZARD: MERC #7**. Written by **Adam Blaustein**, penciled by **Alan Kupperberg**, and inked by **Jim Fern**. 75¢.

☐ **MARK HAZZARD: MERC #7**—**Mark Hazzard** is sent by the U.S. government to find or destroy the top secret jet fighter that crashed in international waters—if, indeed that *is* what happened! A tie-in with **KICKERS, INC. #7**. Written by **Adam Blaustein**, penciled by **Alan Kupperberg**, and inked by **Jim Fern**. 75¢.

☐ **MEPHISTO VS. X-FACTOR (Limited Series) #2**—**Mephisto's** quest for pure souls takes a mutant turn when he sets his demonic sights on **X-Factor**! Written by **Al Milgrom**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. Baxter paper. $1.50.

*Sasquatch is back from the dead—and boy is he mad!*



☐ **STRANGE TALES #2—Doctor Strange! Cloak** and **Dagger!** Two stories now in one monthly title! **Doctor Strange** must make a painful choice between love and duty. The consequence places him in mortal peril by a menacing water elemental. Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Chris Warner**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**.

**Dagger's** father transforms **Cloak** back into his former, normal, self—**Tyrone Johnson**! But instead of celebrating, **Tyrone** is even more suspicious of **Dagger's** father than ever! Is **Tyrone** merely jealous of **Dagger's** affection for her father, or is there a greater reason for his suspicions? Written by **Bill Mantlo** and illustrated by **Bret Blevins**. 75¢.

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR VS. THE X-MEN (Limited Series) #4—Has Doctor Doom** triumphed and rescued **Shadowcat** from her ghostly existence, or has he condemned her to death? The soul-searing conclusion of the Limited Series! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Jon Bogdanove**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. Baxter paper. $1.50.

☐ **SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE #3**—The classic adventures from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN re-presented in a special-format anthology series. **Spider-Man** suffers amnesia and finds himself locked in a battle to the death with **Ka-Zar**, the Jungle Lord, in a gripping two-part saga from THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #s 57 and 58. "The Coming of Ka-Zar!" and "To Kill a Spider-Man" are written by **Stan Lee**, penciled by **John Romita Sr.**, and inked by **Don Heck** and **Mike Esposito**. A Marvel digest. 64 pages. $1.50.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #135—Conan** accepts what at first appears to be a simple bodyguard assignment to protect an Aquilonian lady. But when they stop at a crumbling castle for the night, **Conan** and the lady become trapped in bloody intrigue and encounter the dread "Cursers of the Light." Written by **Charles Dixon**, penciled by **Gary Kwapisz**, and inked by **Ernie Chan**. A Marvel Magazine. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN #2**—Story synopses, color cover reproductions, complete story and cover credits and more about the mutant team that started it all! For mutant maniacs everywhere, this reference series is a must! Compiled by **George Olshevsky**. 48 pages. Direct Sales only. Baxter paper. $2.95.

## Titles Shipping January 20
## On Sale February 10

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #50**—For facts, fantasy, and some downright delightful fun, this is the fiftieth issue to have! Check out what's new in the New Universe! Find out what's happening with the animation whizzes at Marvel Productions! Check out your memory with Marvel's Trivia Quiz! Marvel answers the 20 Most-Asked Questions! The New Talent Department displays the art of the Marvel Try-Out Contest Winners! Plus: Stan's Soapbox, the Mutant Report, Hembeck's Page—and a special extra Hembeck feature! And that's not all! Direct Sales only. 50¢.

☐ **THE AVENGERS #279—The Avengers** choose a new leader! Their selection is a shocker! Written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #194—Conan** and his friend **Kaleb the Destroyer** become locked in an all-out battle against the twin forces of demonic evil: **the Shedu** and **the Devourer of Souls**! And **Kaleb's** daughter discovers in the dank catacombs beneath the Temple of Mitra a secret which will irrevocably change the future of the Hyborian kingdoms! Plot by **Jim Owsley** and **Val Semeiks**, script by **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **Val Semeiks**, and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. 75¢.

☐ **G.I. JOE #59**—Meet the villainy of **Raptur**! Even **Cobra Commander** thinks this guy is bad news! Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Ron Wagner**, and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**. 75¢.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK #331—Can Rick Jones** ever be freed of the Hulk? The answer at last! Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Todd McFarlane**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. 75¢.

### new universe

☐ **D.P. 7 #7—The D.P. 7** group finds itself dangerously divided. One group wants to tackle their enemy, **Scuzz**. The other wants to attempt a kidnaping! And while they argue, the bounty-goaded **Headhunters** are closing in. Written by **Mark Gruenwald** and penciled by **Paul Ryan**. 75¢.

☐ **JUSTICE #7—Justice** vs. his father—the deadly conclusion! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Geof Isherwood**, and inked by **Vincent Colletta**!. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL TALES #199—Captain Britain**, the incredible super hero from the United Kingdom, comes to New York City and **Spider-Man's** life will never be the same! "Introducing **Captain Britain**" is reprinted from **MARVEL TEAM-UP #65**. Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. 75¢.

☐ **MUPPET BABIES #13**—The silliest spoof ever of **Sherlock Holmes** finds little **Kermit** clad as the famous British detective, **Miss Piggy** as the woman who's been wronged, and **Fozzie** as a bumbling **Dr. Watson** in "The Casebook of Kermlock Holmes." Written by **Laura Hitchcock** and illustrated by **Marie Severin**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **THE 'NAM #6—Corporal Ed Marks** learns how war is waged in the middle of the rainy season of Vietnam in "Monsoon." Written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Mike Golden**, and inked by **Armando Gil**. 75¢.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN #217—Is Dazzler** good enough to join the ranks of the **X-Men**? The **Juggernaut** doesn't think so, that's why he's out to make her his first X-victim! "An Act of Terror" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Jackson Guice**, and inked by **Dan Green**. 75¢.

☐ **THE MARVEL SAGA #18**—The acclaimed series that presents the linear history of the Marvel Universe continues! The battle between **the Avengers** and the original **Masters of Evil** reaches a shocking conclusion. For in the aftermath of their victory, some members quit **the Avengers! Thor** defeats **the Absorbing Man** and then embarks on the incredible Trial of the Gods! The **Fantastic Four** lose their powers in an astonishing battle against the **Frightful Four! Daredevil** battles **Mr. Fear**, the **Sub-Mariner** and **Doctor Doom! The Hulk** gets tackled by **the Leader's** legion of indestructable androids! And **Spider-Man** confronts the crafty **Crime Master**, takes on the gruesome original **Green Goblin**, and finally finds himself in a fight for his life against the amazing original **Spider-Slayer**! Written by **Peter Sanderson**. Based on stories by **Stan Lee**, **Jack Kirby**, **Don Heck**, **Steve Ditko**, **Wally Wood**, and more! $1.00.

☐ **ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN (Limited Series) #8—Elektra** and **Garrett** are prisoners of **S.H.I.E.L.D.!** Has **Elektra's** ultimate enemy, **the Beast**, truly won? The bloody answer to that question is found in the savage conclusion of the limited series! Written by **Frank Miller**, painted by **Bill Sienkiewicz**. An Epic comic. Direct Sales only. Hudson paper. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #32—The Yellow Claw's** plot of revenge and world domination reaches its final stages! How can **Captain America** stop **Yellow Claw** and his high-tech army? Written by **J. Marc DeMatteis**, penciled by **Kerry Gammill**, and inked by **Dennis Janke**. Direct Sales only. Hudson paper. $1.50.

# Titles Shipping January 27
# On Sale February 17

☐ **CARE BEARS** #10—Without the **Sandman**, no one can sleep. And with no rest, the world is going to have nothing but grouchy people. The **Care Bears** embark on a quest to discover who has stopped the **Sandman**—and why in "The Great Staying Up Mystery." Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **ELFQUEST** #22—**Winnowill** kidnaps **Cutter's** child! Will the result mean war amongst the Elves and the end of the **quest**? Written by **Wendy** and **Richard Pini** and illustrated by **Wendy Pini**. An Epic comic. 75¢.

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #302—While on their honeymoon, **Johnny Storm, the Human Torch**, and **Alicia** discover a secret in a rural village which could mean the destruction of Earth! Written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Sal Buscema**. 75¢.

☐ **THE INHUMANOIDS** #3—The human **Earth Corps** battles the merciless **Inhumanoids** in an incredible war at the Earth's core! Plus: the astonishing subterranean **Granites**! "The Battle Down Below" is written by **Jim Salicrup**, penciled by **Jose Delbo** and inked by **Joe Del Beato**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **IRON MAN** #218—**Iron Man** unveils his special deep sea armor for a government mission so secret and so dangerous we only dare tell you its objective—the sunken luxury liner Titanic! Plotted by **David Michelinie** and **Bob Layton**, scripted by **David Michelinie** and illustrated by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

☐ **PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #126—**Spider-Man** teams up with the new **Spider-Woman** and takes on the rampaging **Wrecking Crew**! "Wrecking Havoc" is written by **Danny Fingeroth**, penciled by **Jim Mooney**, and inked by **Art Nichols**. 75¢.

## new universe

☐ **SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLESHOOTERS** #8—The **Troubleshooters** meet a mysterious benefactor, and get into a lot more trouble than they've ever had! Plus: the new **Spitfire** armor is revealed! Written by **Gerry Conway** and **Roy Thomas**, penciled by **Herb Trimpe**, and inked by **Tony Dezuniga**. 75¢.

☐ **STARBRAND** #8—**Starbrand** takes a trip to Switzerland. But instead of fun, he finds danger—not only for himself, but for his friends as well! Written by **Bobbie Chase**, penciled by **Rick Leonardi**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

☐ **THOR** #379—Having devastated Asgard with a plague, **the Frost Giants** summon the only enemy the mighty **Thor** fears—**the Midgard Serpent**! Written by **Walter Simonson**, illustrated by **Sal Buscema**. 75¢.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS** #28—The **Autobots** get a new leader! But will they survive the experience? Written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Don Perlin**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. 75¢.

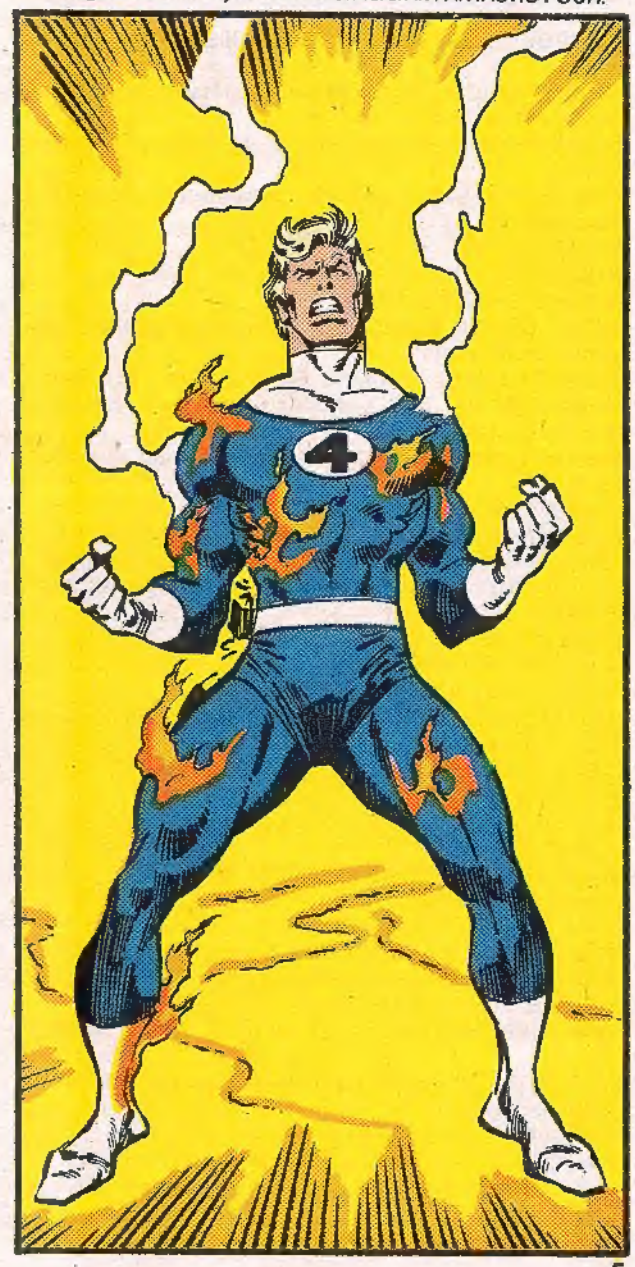
☐ **X-FACTOR** #16—The mutant **X-Factor** rescued in their first mission confronts the woman he disfigured. Does the woman forgive him or has she secretly plotted revenge? Written by **Louise Simonson**, guest-penciled by **David Mazzucchelli**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 75¢.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #9—Here it is—the one you've been waiting for—the first appearance of **Phoenix**! Reprinted from **X-MEN** #101. "Like a Phoenix From the Ashes" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Dave Cockrum**, and inked by **Frank Chiaramonte**. Plus: a special new story featuring a previously unrevealed side of this adventure written by **Chris Claremont** and illustrated by **John Bolton**. 32 pages. No ads. $1.00.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE** #3—The reprint anthology of **Transformers** adventures continues as young **Buster Witwicky** establishes an astonishing Mind Link with **Optimus Prime**! And **Shockwave** defeats **Megatron** to become the leader of the **Decepticons**. As if that weren't enough, the **Dinobots** debut! Reprinted from **THE TRANSFORMERS** #s 6, 7, and 8. Written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Alan Kupperberg** and **William Johnson**, and inked by **Kyle Baker**. A Marvel digest. $1.50.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOK** #3—The ultimate reference to all the Marvel characters re-presented in a special durable format! Reprinting issues #s 5 and 6 from the **HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION**. Written by **Peter Sanderson** and **Mark Gruenwald**. Trade Paperback. $6.95.

*A village faces the fury of the Human Torch in FANTASTIC FOUR.*



# MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS

## Titles Shipping February

**DAREDEVIL #243**—by Nocenti, Williams, and Williamson.
**G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #5**—by Hama and Trimpe.
**HUGGABUNCH #5**
**STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #7**—by Gillis and Anderson.
**THE NEW MUTANTS #52**—by Claremont and Nowlan.
**NIGHTMASK #8**
**PSI FORCE #8**
**THUNDERCATS #12**—by Conway and Delbo.
**WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #27**
**WEST COAST AVENGERS #21**—by Englehart, Milgrom, and Sinnott.
**COMET MAN #5**—by Mumy, Ferrer, Jones, and Talaoc.
**AVENGERS VS. THE X-MEN #3**—by Stern, Silvestri, and Rubinstein.
**ALPHA FLIGHT #47**—by Mantlo, Brigman, and Portacio.
**ANIMAX #4**
**CAPTAIN AMERICA #330**—by Gruenwald.
**FALLEN ANGELS #3**—by Duffy, Gammill, and Palmer.
**GROO THE WANDERER #28**—by Aragones with Evanier.
**HEATHCLIFF #16**
**KICKERS, INC. #8**
**MARK HAZZARD: MERC #8**
**THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #289**—by David, Kupperberg, Morgan, and Fern.
**STRANGE TALES #3**—by Gillis, Mantlo, and others.
**POWER PACK #30**
**MEPHISTO VS. X-MEN #3**—by Milgrom, J. Buscema, and Wiacek.
**SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #136**—by Dixon, Kwapisz, and Chan.
**STAR COMICS MAGAZINE #4**
**THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #2**—compiled by Olshevsky.
**MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #51**
**THE AVENGERS #280**—by Stern, J. Buscema, and Palmer.
**CONAN THE BARBARIAN #195**—by Owsley, Semeiks, and Isherwood.
**D.P. 7 #8**—by Gruenwald and Ryan.
**G.I. JOE #60**—by Hama, Whigham, and Mushynsky.
**THE INCREDIBLE HULK #332**—by Macchio, and McFarlane.
**JUSTICE #8**—by Englehart, Isherwood, and Colletta.

EWOKS TM and © 1986 Lucasfilm, Inc.

*The Ewoks fun afoul of an evil wood wizard.*

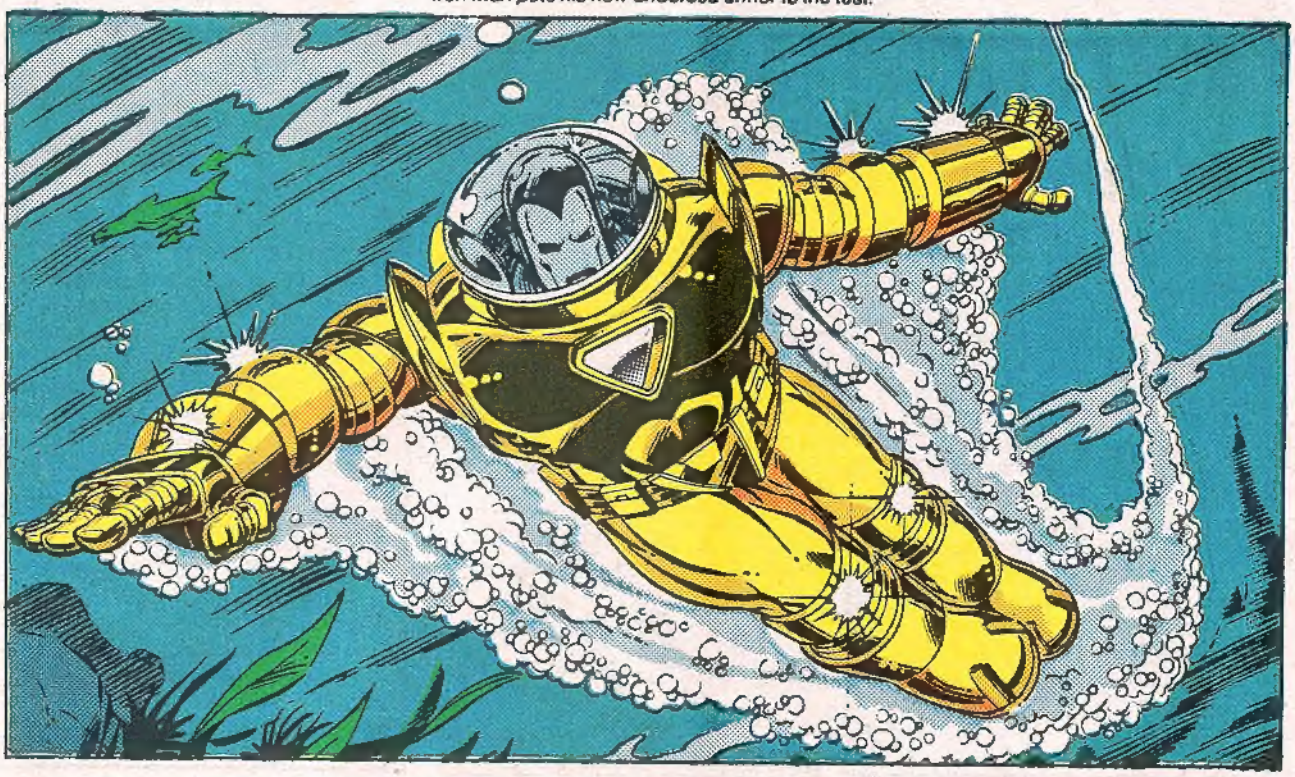
**MARVEL TALES #200**—by Claremont, Byrne, and Hunt.
**THE 'NAM #7**—by Murray, Golden, and Gil.
**THE UNCANNY X-MEN #218**—by Claremont, Guice, and Green.
**THE MARVEL SAGA #19**—by Sanderson.
**DROIDS #8**
**ELFQUEST #23**—by W. and R. Pini.
**FANTASTIC FOUR #303**—by Stern, J. Buscema, and S. Buscema.
**IRON MAN #219**—by Michelinie and Layton.
**PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #127**
**POPPLES #4**
**SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLESHOOTERS #9**
**STARBRAND #9**
**THOR #380**—by W. Simonson and S. Buscema.
**TOP DOG #14**
**THE TRANSFORMERS #29**—by Budiansky, Perlin, Akin, and Garvey.
**X-FACTOR #17**—by L. Simonson, W. Simonson, and Wiacek.
**CLASSIC X-MEN #10**—by Claremont, Cockrum, and Bolton.

**ALIEN LEGION #19**—by Zelenetz, Stroman, and Emberlin.
**G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #4**

## Titles Shipping March

**DAREDEVIL #244**—by Nocenti, Williams, and Williamson.
**THE DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH #4**—by Higgins, Savluk, and Fredericks.
**MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #8**—by Carlin, Wilson, and Bulanadi.
**STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #8**—by Gillis and Anderson.
**THE NEW MUTANTS #53**—by Claremont and Nowlan.
**NIGHTMASK #9**
**PETER PORKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #16**—by Mellor, Albelo, and Fournier.
**PSI FORCE #9**
**THUNDERCATS #13**—by Conway and Delbo.
**WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #28**
**WEST COAST AVENGERS #22**—by Englehart, Milgrom, and Sinnott.
**COMET MAN #6**—by Mumy, Ferrer, Jones, and Talaoc.
**X-MEN VS. THE AVENGERS #4**—by Stern, Silvestri, and Rubinstein.
**ALPHA FLIGHT #48**—by Mantlo, Brigman, and Portacio.
**CAPTAIN AMERICA #331**—by Gruenwald.
**CHUCK NORRIS KARATE KOMMANDOS #4**—by Duffy, Ditko, and D'Agostino.
**EWOKS #14**
**FALLEN ANGELS #4**—by Duffy, Gammill, and Palmer.
**GROO THE WANDERER #29**—by Aragones with Evanier.
**KICKERS, INC. #9**
**MARK HAZZARD: MERC #9**
**THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #290**
**STRANGE TALES #4**—by Gillis, Mantlo, and others.
**MEPHISTO VS. THE AVENGERS #4**—by Milgrom, J. Buscema, and Wiacek.
**SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE #4**
**SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #137**—by Dixon, Kwapisz, and Chan.
**THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN #3**—compiled by Olshevsky.
**MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #52**
**THE AVENGERS #281**—by Stern, J. Buscema, and Palmer.
**CONAN THE BARBARIAN #196**—by Owsley, Semeiks, and Isherwood.
**D.P. 7 #9**—by Gruenwald and Ryan.
**G.I. JOE #61**—by Hama, Whigham, and Mushynsky.
**THE INCREDIBLE HULK #333**—by Macchio and McFarlane.
**JUSTICE #9**—by Englehart, Isherwood, and Colletta.
**MARVEL TALES #201**—by Claremont, Byrne, and Hunt.
**MUPPET BABIES #14**
**THE 'NAM #8**—by Murray, Golden, and Gil.
**THE UNCANNY X-MEN #219**—by Claremont, Guice, and Green.
**THE MARVEL SAGA #20**—by Sanderson.
**MARVEL FANFARE #33**
**CARE BEARS #11**
**ELFQUEST #24**—by W. and R. Pini.
**FANTASTIC FOUR #304**—by Stern, J. Buscema, and S. Buscema.
**THE INHUMANOIDS #4**—by Salicrup, Fry, and Thibert.
**IRON MAN #220**—by Michelinie and Layton.
**PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #128**
**SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLESHOOTERS #10**
**STARBRAND #10**
**THOR #381**—by W. Simonson and S. Buscema.
**THE TRANSFORMERS #30**—by Budiansky, Perlin, Akin, and Garvey.
**X-FACTOR #18**—by L. Simonson, W. Simonson, and Wiacek.
**CLASSIC X-MEN #11**—by Claremont, Cockrum, and Bolton.
**THE TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE #4**
**THE OFFICIAL MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOK #4**—Trade Paperback

*Iron Man puts his new undersea armor to the test.*



# NEWSWATCH

Jim Shooter listed by PLAYGIRL, Bill Sienkiewicz animated by MTV, J. Marc DeMatteis enters THE TWILIGHT ZONE, and Bill Mumy is LOST IN . . .

YOU DROVE ME TO THIS WITH THOSE THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD EYES. IF I LEAVE TEETHMARKS AND SCRATCHES ALL OVER YOUR BODY... I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE.
BARB, I... I HAVE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING...

**ITEM:** We always knew he was a giant among men, and now PLAYGIRL magazine revealed he's pretty esteemed by women as well! They recently completed their nationwide search for America's 50 Most Eligible Bachelors and our own Editor in Chief **Jim Shooter** came in there at #36, ahead of such formidable competition as L.A. Raiders' **Lyle Alzado**, T.V. exec **Grant Tinker**, and dancer/director **Mikhail Baryshnikov**. Congratulations, Jim!

**ITEM:** What do ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN, the DAREDEVIL Graphic Novel, and MTV all have in common? The answer is artist **Bill Sienkiewicz**! Bill did a series of illustrations for MTV's commercial for their new fall season of rock videos. Bill's artwork was then computer-enhanced by MTV's video wizards. Titled "Wedding Night at the Acme Honeymoon Motel," the 30-second spot premiered on the night of MTV's music awards and has since been seen by MTV cable subscribers all across the country! Now, in addition to "Make Mine Marvel!" Marvelites are also chanting, "I want my MTV!"

**ITEM: J. Marc DeMatteis**, the writer who made MOONSHADOW and GREENBERG THE VAMPIRE a household word—at least, in *his* household—just finished writing an episode for THE TWILIGHT ZONE tv show. It's titled "The Girl That I Married," stars **Linda Kelsey** and **James Whitmore Jr.**, and is directed by **Phil DeGuere**. Check your local T.V. listings—by the time you read these words, it should be on the air!

**ITEM:** A honeymoon in Hawaii sounds like the ultimate romantic event, right? Well, COMET MAN scripter **Bill Mumy** went one better by getting *married* in Hawaii! The lucky and lovely bride was **Eileen Davis** and she and Bill tied the knot on October 9th. The whole blamed Bullpen got real misty-eyed when it heard the news. We all wish them many happy years together!

**ITEM:** If you thought Newswatch was packed with info, wait until you read the rest of the magazine!

## BULLPEN BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---|---|
| January 4 | **Chic Stone** |
| January 7 | **Bob Wiacek** |
| January 11 | **Bob Harras** |
| January 14 | **Chante Foster** |
| January 15 | **Stan Kay** |
| January 18 | **Fred Baumann** |
| January 19 | **Milt Schiffman** |
| | **Tom Yeates** |
| January 20 | **Keith Pollard** |
| January 22 | **Howard Mackie** |
| January 24 | **John Romita Sr.** |
| January 26 | **Sal Buscema** |
| January 27 | **Frank Miller** |
| January 30 | **Fred Hembeck** |

## THE TOP TEN

Here we go again with another look at the top ten direct sales titles. This month it's a list of titles for September, 1986, and as always, it is compiled by our pal and director of Specialty Sales, **Carol Kalish** and provided by her assistant **Evelyn Lopez**.

1—**X-MEN #213**
2—**X-MEN ANNUAL #10**
3—**X-FACTOR #12**
4—**G.I. JOE AND THE TRANSFORMERS #1**
5—**CLASSIC X-MEN #5**
6—**G.I. JOE #55**
7—**MARVEL UNIVERSE #14**
8—**G.I. JOE UNIVERSE #3**
9—**THE NEW MUTANTS #47**
10—**ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN #4**

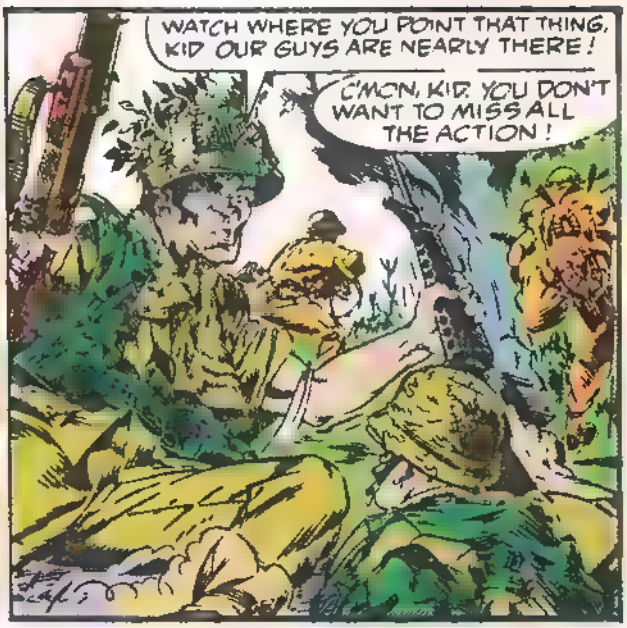
# THE 'NAM

**Doug Murray has been featured on *THE CBS EVENING NEWS* and written up in newspapers and magazines. In fact, the comic book he writes, THE 'NAM, has become one of the hottest and most talked about comics this year. MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE finally caught up with the super-busy Doug who graciously agreed to fill us in on the facts about THE 'NAM.**

*What was the genesis of THE 'NAM?*

Editor **Larry Hama** and I are old acquaintances. He knew I was a Vietnam Vet who had experience doing comic book stories. So he asked if I'd do some SAVAGE TALES stories about the Vietnam War.

At the same time, **Bob Layton** had suggested to **Jim Shooter** that he should do a comic called THE 'NAM about the Vietnam War because of all the interest that was




going around about it. My impression was that Bob wasn't entirely serious about the suggestion, but nonetheless Jim brought it to Larry along with a dummy cover. And Larry gave the idea to me and asked me to see what I could come up with. So I did a prospectus about what eventually became THE 'NAM.

*THE 'NAM is in "real time"—that is, when a new issue appears, one month of time has passed in the story.*

That's correct. One of the things we're trying to do with THE 'NAM is try and make it as realistic as possible. We are grounding the book as completely as possible in the real history of the time period.

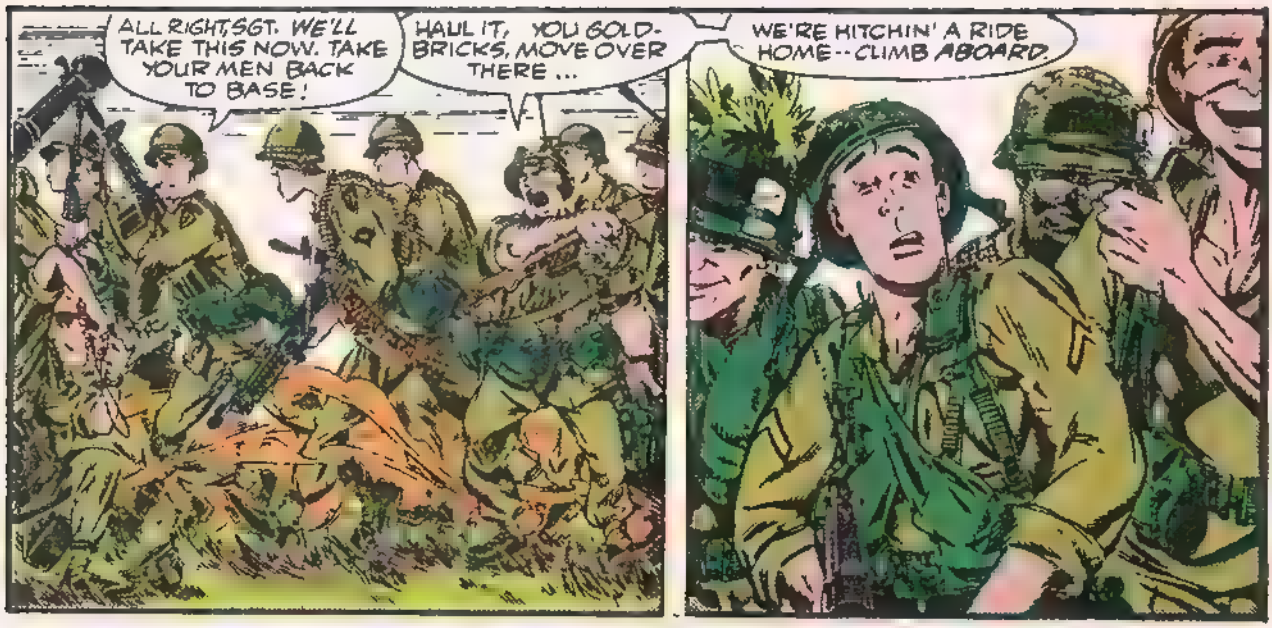
The book is a monthly, so theoretically a month passes in the book the same time that a month passes for the readers. In actuality it might be thirty-five or forty days rather than thirty. But in basic terms it will be from month to month. The first issue happens in February, 1966, the second issue in March, 1966, and so on. Assuming that the book is successful and continues, we will historically end the title in mid-1974 with the last helicopters taking off from the U.S. Mission in Saigon.

The other somewhat unusual thing this time-pacing allows us to do is that, being as the tour for a soldier in Vietnam was twelve months, at the end of twelve months any character that we have in the book will be rotated back to the States. So the **Ed Marks** character who we follow in issue #1 will be gone by the end of issue #13; and there will be someone replacing him.

*Do you have a particular focus with THE 'NAM?*

Our focus is to show the war from the infantryman's point of view. Most films, books, and whatnot are done by officers. Either they're the technical advisers or they're the guys who wrote the book. And their point of view tends to be strategic. They think of the war in terms of what the overall objectives were.

Now, the infantryman sees the war differently. The infantryman takes care of himself and the guys in his squad. There are ten guys that he lives with, day by day. He knows everybody in his squad really well, like you would know your wife, or your brother, or your


ALL RIGHT, SGT. WE'LL TAKE THIS NOW. TAKE YOUR MEN BACK TO BASE!
HAUL IT, YOU GOLD-BRICKS, MOVE OVER THERE ...
WE'RE HITCHIN' A RIDE HOME--CLIMB ABOARD.

closest friend. And he cares about these people more than anybody else in the world. So if the infantryman does something heroic, it's not for Mom, apple pie, and the good ol' U.S. of A., it's because he doesn't want to look bad in front of his buddies

The infantryman's view of the war is really restricted. He sees the war as a kind of day-to-day thing, with no real idea of what's going on in the larger sense. To a great extent, the war was completely meaningless to the infantryman because he's sent from Point A to Point B and then perhaps he'll find nothing at all in Point B—spend five days in a patrol and see nothing at all. Then maybe he'll fight a pitched battle for a little section of land out in the middle of nowhere and finally win the battle, take over the section of land and then be ordered to move back three or four days later. So for the infantryman it's a kaliedescope of events rather than a real concerted type of situation where you know exactly what's happening

We've devised the book in such a way so that the main character will always be a relatively new man first seeing the country, so the reader can learn about the war as the new guy learns about things

*Were you an infantryman in the Vietnam War, yourself?*

Yes, I was an infantry NCO [Non-Commissioned Officer]. I went there as an artilleryman but ended up as an infantryman. I did two tours there. I was there in 1968 for a total of eight months before I got wounded and sent back to the States. And then I was there again in 1971 on a temporary duty basis for about three to four months doing a special project. In all, I spent a little more than a year there. The first tour in '68 was by far the most interesting in that I was involved in the Tet Offensive and really saw a lot of action. In '71 it was a technical type thing and although I saw a little action, things were a little different then.

*What challenges have you faced writing a comic book about the Vietnam War?*

There were a bunch of challenges. The initial challenge was designing the book and characters in such a way that the Vietnam Vets would accept it as being realistic and true to the way the war was and therefore not have any objections to it from their point of view; and that others would accept THE 'NAM as an exciting adventure story.

Another challenge was trying to keep the stories as true to life as possible without going afoul of the Comics Code

We've had some problems with things like the language—infantrymen really curse a lot. (Laughter.) Obviously we can't do that in THE 'NAM. So it is sometimes difficult to come up with different euphemistic slang words that don't include the cursing. We've made a real effort on that and I think it's worked out okay.

A third challenge is just making things look realistic. One of the problems with writing THE 'NAM is that no one unit throughout the war was involved in a really huge amount of action. There are times when I had to stretch things and move Ed Marks' unit a little bit out of their area of operations and put them in a situation that maybe a different infantry unit was actually involved in. But considering that a lot of actions in the war were really small-scale situations where you'd be patrolling a village or in an ambush or something, we can show this and not have to shave too much in terms of historical fact.

*What has been the reaction of Vietnam Vets to THE 'NAM?*

It's been almost unanimously good. The letters split about 50-50 between your basic non-Vietnam Vet comic book readers and the Vets. The Vets have been very supportive, many indicating that they're willing to give me whatever help they can in terms of story ideas, characters, or whatever. They like the book because it is realistic, it doesn't glorify the war, and it doesn't make everybody a **Rambo**-type hero. It shows things the way they really were.

We've gotten a couple of negative reactions from some Vets, but they've been kind of off the wall. One letter was from a Marine who was upset because we showed characters who weren't lily-white and angelic. His feeling was that the Vietnam Vets had gotten so much bad press that we should go out of our way not to give them any further bad press, even if that meant bending reality a little bit. That's not something I'm willing to do, although I can understand his point of view. That's been about the extent of the bad stuff.

*How about the reaction from comic book fans?*

We've gotten no letters from comic fans who didn't like the book. The only question we've had is an almost 50-50 split about **Michael Golden's** artwork. First of all, I want to say that I really like Michael Golden's artwork. I think it's just super. His feeling of realism—his

characterization is just great. Some of the fans have mentioned that he has somewhat of a cartoony style. About half the fans said they liked that because it makes the action sequences, which may be pretty grisly, have enough unreality that they can accept it without any trouble. And some of the fans have been against the cartoony style because it is not realistic enough in the action sequences, making it really difficult for them to accept the grisly stuff.

*Is Mike a Vietnam Vet also?*

No, he's not. But he's a guy who has a tremendous interest in the Vietnam era. He's done a tremendous amount of research, so his stuff is completely authentic. He also has a tremendous feeling for character. If you look at some of the panels, for instance, in one he had fifteen or sixteen guys waiting in line for a shot, and everyone in the panel looked different, they all acted different. I think that's just super. A guy who can do that with background characters is just really a tremendous aid for a book like this.

*Is there a message that you're trying to tell in this series?*

The one thing that I've learned, having been trained in college as a history teacher, is that if you don't understand the history of something that's passed, there is always the possibility that you're going to repeat your mistakes.

The Vietnam War has been ignored for years. People have gone out of their way not to talk about it possibly because it's a sore subject because of all the controversy and all the problems that exist in different parts of society over different aspects of the war. Now, if we don't teach the current generation of kids what that war was like and why we were involved in it and what we did wrong, there's always the possibility that we'll do the same thing somewhere else.

So if there's a message, the message is, "This is what war is like. This is the kind of war we get into by making these sorts of mistakes. So let's not make these sorts of mistakes and get involved in these sorts of problems."

*You've recently received a lot of national television and newspaper coverage on THE 'NAM. What's your reaction to this?*

I've been really astonished about the whole thing. When we came up with the concept and started to put THE 'NAM together, we were hoping that we'd just sell enough copies to keep the book alive. I never expected that the national media would get hold of it and do as much as they have. I realize that we were doing something unusual in terms of dealing with the Vietnam War, but war comics have been a part of our society for decades. I think the attention paid to us is because we're doing a series about Vietnam, which has been a taboo subject for quite a long time. The way we're handling it, which is not the standard war comic format has kind of opened things up.

*What was your most-asked question from the media?*

The one question that I'm really getting tired of hearing is . . . everybody has asked me if there's a character like Rambo in the book. That's exactly the opposite of what we're trying to do. I try to make that clear. The Rambo concept of the Vietnam War has gotten so deeply ingrained into the media that their immediate image of Vietnam is a guy like Rambo running around with his shirt off and his M-16, just firing away and screaming. That's the last thing I'd like to see in our book.

*What can we expect in the upcoming year in THE 'NAM?*

Well, they can expect to see the first sergeant situation wrapped up in a way that I think will be unexpected. And they can expect to see some changes in Ed Marks. As he becomes a vet, he'll become more sure of himself. He'll start to assert himself as a leader. And there'll be some new characters coming in. There'll be a few members of the regular Vietnamese army. The readers can expect to see a **Bob Hope** USO visit, things of that nature. Toward the end of the year, we'll start introducing the characters who'll be taking Ed Mark's place as he gets ready to rotate back to the States.

*Anything you'd like to say in closing?*

It took a lot of courage on the part of Jim Shooter and Marvel Comics to do THE 'NAM in the first place, considering what the general feeling of the Vietnam War has been. I just want to express thanks to Jim for having the courage to try something like this. I'm happy that it's worked out as well as it has.

*—Dwight Jon Zimmerman*

NOW, PRIVATE, YOU TAKE THIS NOW, AND YOU'LL GET ANOTHER TO TAKE IN TWO WEEKS.
REMEMBER, MALARIA PUTS MORE MEN OUT OF ACTION THAN WOUNDS HERE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

# There's two sides to every tale.

The magic of Dr. Strange.
The mystery of Cloak & Dagger.
Their stories continue each month in the new

# STRANGE TALES™

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# STAN'S SOAPBOX

Wow! It's hard to believe a whole month has gone by since we last partook of our fearless feast of cultural erudition!

It must have been unbearable for you, having to wait all this time till our next get-together, but I've got a little surprise that may make it all worthwhile!

However, before we get to this month's titillating treat, let me bring you up to speed on the various Marvel happenings at our mixed-up mecca of make-believe here in happy-go-lucky Hollywood.

Even at this moment, while your incredulous eyes are greedily scanning these scintillating sentences, Marvel's mighty legions of high-powered lawyers are writing contracts for the production of new, live-action television series starring none other than the sensational SHE-HULK, in addition to DAREDEVIL, The Man Without Fear! (And he'd *have* to be fearless to enter the tintinnabulatingly tumultuous tv ratings race, right?)

Not only that, but next year we'll be hitting the boob tube with the most offbeat animated super hero show you've ever roared at. Don't let the simple title, SOLARMAN, fool you. Our hero is as daringly different in his own way as **Spider-Man** was when we first dreamed him up!

We've also got some new feature-length films winging your way! I mean, you didn't expect us to just rest on our laurels after our world-famous HOWARD THE DUCK megahit, didja? Y'know, it's a funny thing about ol' **Howie**. If the flick had been a success, I'd have found some way for Marvel to claim credit for it. I mean, you know me! But, since it faded away like a thief in the night, I've been working overtime looking for someone to blame. **Irving Forbush**, where are you when we needja?

There's lots more going down here in cinemaland, but I'll save some goodies for next issue. Anyway, it's time for the titanic treat I promised you. Just for old times sake, I decided to write a little Christmas poem like the kind I used to lay on you years ago. This is, of course, in answer to countless requests—from our competitors, who want to destroy us!

## A SANTA CLAUS SAGA

*'Twas the night before Christmas*
*And at the North Pole*
*Santa was reading*
*While his elves shoveled coal.*

*Mrs. Claus kept reminding*
*"Santa, you're late!*
*The children are crying,*
*'Cause kids hate to wait!*

*"The presents are gathering*
*Dust on the floor.*
*The reindeer are calling*
*From behind the barn door!*

*"You've got to get started*
*I beg you, my dear,*
*Don't be faint-hearted*
*Go out and spread cheer."*

*Santa just kept on reading,*
*His eyes twinkling with joy.*
*He chuckled and chortled*
*Like a mischievous boy.*

*"I'll deliver these presents,*
*For better or worse.*
*But not till I finish*
*Marvel's NEW UNIVERSE!"*

And if *that* doesn't get me a subscription from Shooter, he can write his *own* ads from now on!

Excelsior! (And a ho ho ho to one and all!)

Stan

HULK LIKES CHRISTMAS TIME...
HULK REMEMBERS GOOD TIMES AT CHRISTMAS WITH HIS FRIENDS THE DEFENDERS...
YOU SAID MAKE YOU A CHRISTMAS TREE HULK, SO POOF--
HULK AM CHRISTMAS TREE!

CUTE BUT DOC BETTER GO EASY ON THE EGG NOG...
FUNNY, HULK NEVER SEES OLD FRIENDS ANY-MORE...
HULK MISSES THEM.
BUT HULK IS DIFFERENT NOW.
MEANER. HAS NO FRIENDS.
EXCEPT AT CHRISTMAS TIME.
HULK IS EVERYONE'S FRIEND THEN!
YOURS, TOO!
MERRY CHRISTMAS, PUNY HUMAN!

# SERGIO ARAGONÉS GROO THE WANDERER™

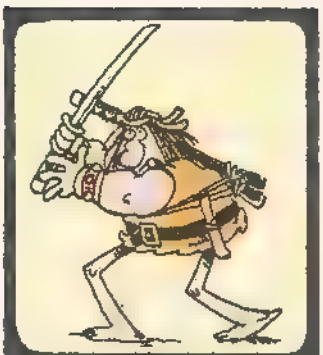
Mulching is a process of inbred fertilization which employs certain decomposed organic materials—including but not limited to animal sediment—to blanket an area in which vegetation is desired. The procedure enriches the soil for stimulated plant development while, at the same time, preventing erosion and decreasing the evaporation of moisture from the ground

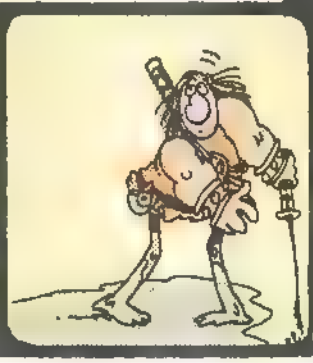
If you don't know why this article starts off with a definition of "mulching," you haven't been reading GROO THE WANDERER, the hilarious Epic Comics series which has taken the comics world by storm!

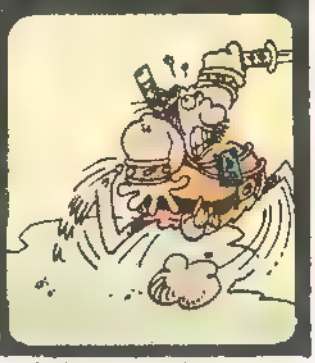
**Groo** is probably the world's least intelligent barbarian. And considering the I.Q. of the average barbarian, that's saying a lot! For more than two years now, Groo has stumbled through innumerable battles, his incredible skill with his swords matched only by his insatiable appetite for cheese dip. And don't ever let him catch you calling him a mendicant . . . even though he doesn't know what it means.

Groo manages to get by with the help of a variety of recurring characters (who often don't realize what they're getting into). There's the wise **Sage**, who travels far and wide with his faithful dog by his side; the beautiful, deadly barbarian chieftess **Chakaal**; **Arcadio the Minstrel**, who speaks only in rhyme; Groo's treacherous "friend," **Taranto**, who's never quite realized that Groo is too stupid to use even as an unwitting dupe; and too many others to mention

The brainchild of writer/artist **Sergio Aragones** (aided and abetted by **Mark Evanier**), GROO has become an unqualified success in a relatively









GROO TM and © 1986 Sergio Aragones

*Sergio draws caricatures of himself, Mark Evaner, and Stan Sakai into this recent cover illustration for GROO. Whose side are they on? It's probably best Groo doesn't know.*

short period of time GROO was the first Epic comic to be distributed through newsstands as well as comics specialty shops, paving the way for other Epic newsstand comics such as ELFQUEST and DREADSTAR AND COMPANY. "The subscriptions multiplied and the comics shops say they sell more and more copies!" Sergio says. In addition, a line of GROO merchandise including t-shirts and miniature lead figurines has already been launched. And 1987 will see the release of the GROO Graphic Novel!

The Graphic Novel is particularly exciting to Sergio and Mark because it's the first GROO story that Mark is writing on his own (although Sergio's drawing it, of course)! "It's very fun drawing the Graphic Novel!" Sergio says. "It's very much in the GROO style."

The title of the Graphic Novel is THE DEATH OF GROO! But don't worry—Mark is quick to point out that "Groo doesn't die in the Graphic Novel; he appears to die. So essentially, we've got 64 pages of people celebrating!"

As Mark explains, "The story takes place in a city where Groo is Public Enemy #1, #2, #3 . . . and Groo walks directly in! There's a chase and Groo is apparently killed, but he's not really dead. So he goes to his own funeral, and when he sees what's going on and how happy everyone is, he gets depressed. He concocts a scheme to make the world wish Groo was back!"

How good is Groo's scheme? "Every once in a while, Sergio and I turn to each other and say, 'He's getting dumber!' " Mark says. "Right now, Groo is somewhere below plankton on the food chain."

The existence of the GROO Graphic Novel attests to the series' success. But the indication of success which means the most to Sergio is the reaction of GROO's readers. "We get so many letters and they are almost all favorable! The nicest ones are from people who had stopped reading comics and came back because they picked up GROO!" Sergio says. "We get letters from professionals saying that this is how comics should be done! I am very, very, very happy."

Mark is pleased, too, but he answers (typically enough) with a joke: "I find it amazing that you can go this far

on three jokes. Maybe next year, we'll add a fourth joke."

Another new idea is the last thing Sergio and Mark need! "I haven't run out of ideas yet," Sergio says. "I have a stack of thirty stories that I've already written but haven't used because every month, I come up with new ideas!"

Recent ideas have included the introduction of Groo's sister, **Grooella** (and you can imagine how hard it is being related to Groo!), and the tale of an ambassador named **Gru** who can never figure out why people are terrified to hear that "Gru is in town." When asked which stories have been his and Sergio's favorites, Mark replies, "Usually, our answer is the story we're currently working on. There have been a lot of positive ones. My favorites are probably the ones where Groo became a monk (issue #15) and an actor (#12) and worked in a fish hatchery (#17)."

Variety is the key word in describing the life of Groo. Who else could be a mercenary one month, a shipbuilder the next, and a slave girl the month after that?

Each of Groo's adventures seems more outlandish than the last! And that leads to the question: What can Groo possibly do next?

Life's certainly not going to be easy for the bumbling swordsman! "Each story will continue to show Groo as a bumbling idiot, because he's violent but doesn't use his brain," Sergio says. But Groo won't be the only member of his family on display. 1987 will see the debut of **Granny Groo**, whom Mark describes as "the toughest old lady in the entire GROO world!" Sergio calls her "a con lady and a thieving gypsy," so you can just imagine what's in store for her grandson!

Later stories will reintroduce some favorite supporting characters and provide information about their pasts as well as their presents! "We'll be doing a story about the origin of the Minstrel, who he is and how he came to be," Mark reveals. "There will also be a story which divulges what the Sage's dog's name is. Anyone else would just tell you; we're doing a whole issue about it!"

In the midst of all of this, there will also be a return appearance by Chakaal, the target of Groo's unrequited love! "We keep meaning to put her in," Mark says, "but other stories keep coming up first!"

Visits from old, familiar characters are spaced carefully between issues. As Sergio says, "We rotate the characters. We don't want to put two or three in an issue and then forget about it." And besides, what character could deal with Groo every month?

Encountering Groo is pretty risky business. So will anything happen to

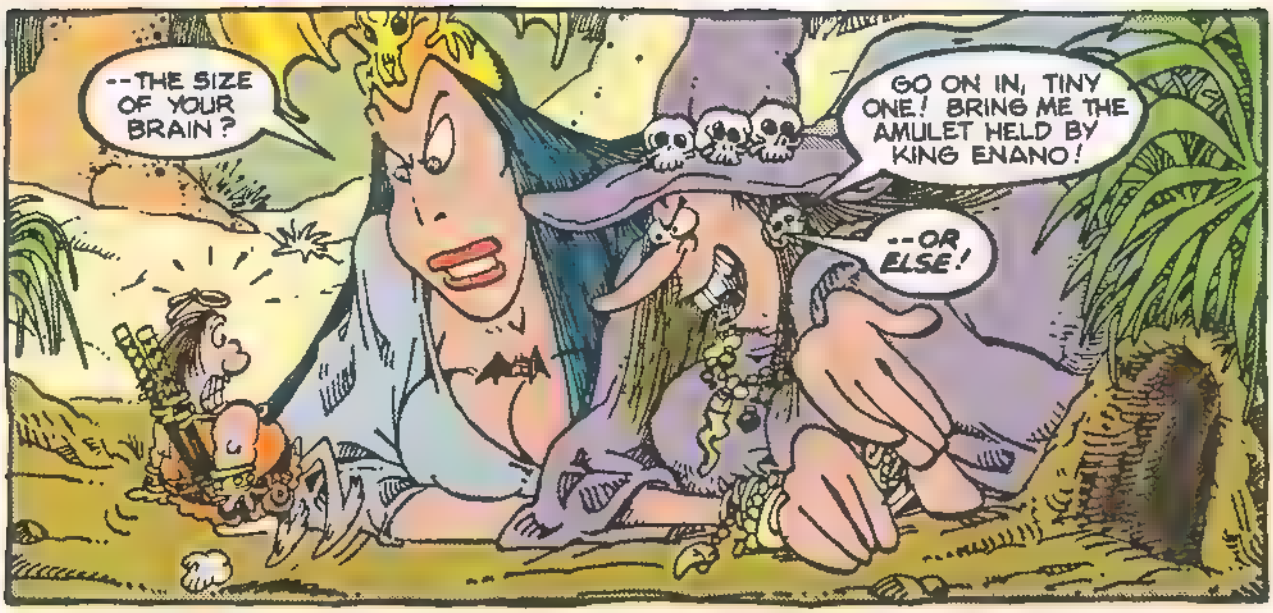
I AM A SPY NOW, SAGE. THE ENEMY TOLD ME THEY HAVE NO WEAPONS AND I AM GOING TO GO REPORT IT!
"ONLY THE INEPT ARE ALWAYS AT THEIR BEST!"

GROO TM and © 1986 Sergio Aragones

any of GROO's supporting cast? Will any of them die? "I'm determined to kill the Minstrel. At 4:00 A.M., trying to write dialogue in poetry can really make you fed up!" Mark laughs. "But he's a popular character."

So many GROO characters have become popular that the Dark Horse Miniature Company has created a line of miniature GROO lead figurines! And, yes, the line has been selling consistently well. "The fourth set of figurines is out now. The fifth is just one figure, a giant dragon, and the sixth set is in production. We're hoping to come out with backgrounds to set the figurines against," Mark says. "We intend to make Groo the **Barbie** doll of the barbarian world! We'll have Groo's Dream House, a Groo that tans, a Groo in a string bikini . . ."

The success of the GROO figurines has also started to provide Sergio with ideas for new characters for GROO. "We're now working on what I call 'the lead figurine theory,'" Mark chuckles. "Many times, Sergio will come to me with a new character that I have some problem with, and he'll say, 'Yeah, but it'll be a great figurine!'"




With all that's happening with GROO, you might think that Sergio and Mark don't have time to do anything else . . . even if "unequivocator"/"traductor"/"bandenillero" Mark Evanier still insists that he has no idea what he does on GROO! But nothing could be further from the truth. Although Mark has had to stop writing for Saturday morning television (he's the one who created ABC's popular series THE WUZZLES), he's busy writing THE WIZARD for CBS as well as various comics stories. And if that isn't enough, he's also working on a number of movie projects and television pilots and writing material for stand-up comedians! Meanwhile, in addition to writing, penciling, and inking 22 pages of GROO a month, Sergio still manages to find time to draw the cartoons that appear in the margins of MAD MAGAZINE! Both Mark and Sergio are happy with what they're doing, but their hectic schedules sometimes take a toll. "I'm usually a hobbyist," Sergio says, "but I haven't had time to touch my tools in years!"

Despite their busy schedules, though, Sergio and Mark hope to do even more GROO material in the future! "We hope to do a GROO ANNUAL sometime, filled with puzzles and games—a GROO Fun Book where you can cut stuff out and glue yourself to your desk at the same time!" Mark says.

He also looks forward to doing some more GROO backup stories featuring the Sage. "Usually, we do the backups because Sergio gets the GROO plot into less pages, but the GROO plots have been running longer lately," he explains. "I'm sure there will be more Sage solo stories in the future."

Mark also makes a point of reassuring readers that the hidden messages which he sneaks into every issue of GROO will continue to appear. "People are actually starting to find them now," Mark says. "I'm running out of clever places to hide the messages, so they're getting easier to find."

Secret messages have already been hidden in GROO's captions, sound effects, dialogue, and backgrounds. So where can they be next?

Well, how about this article? Somewhere in this article, I've hidden a secret message. If you look carefully enough, you should be able to find it. And once you do, you might want to pick up the latest issue of GROO and look for the message that Mark's hidden in there. Even if you don't find it, you're sure to find more fun, laughs, and cheese dip than you thought any barbarian could have!

*—Sholly Fisch*

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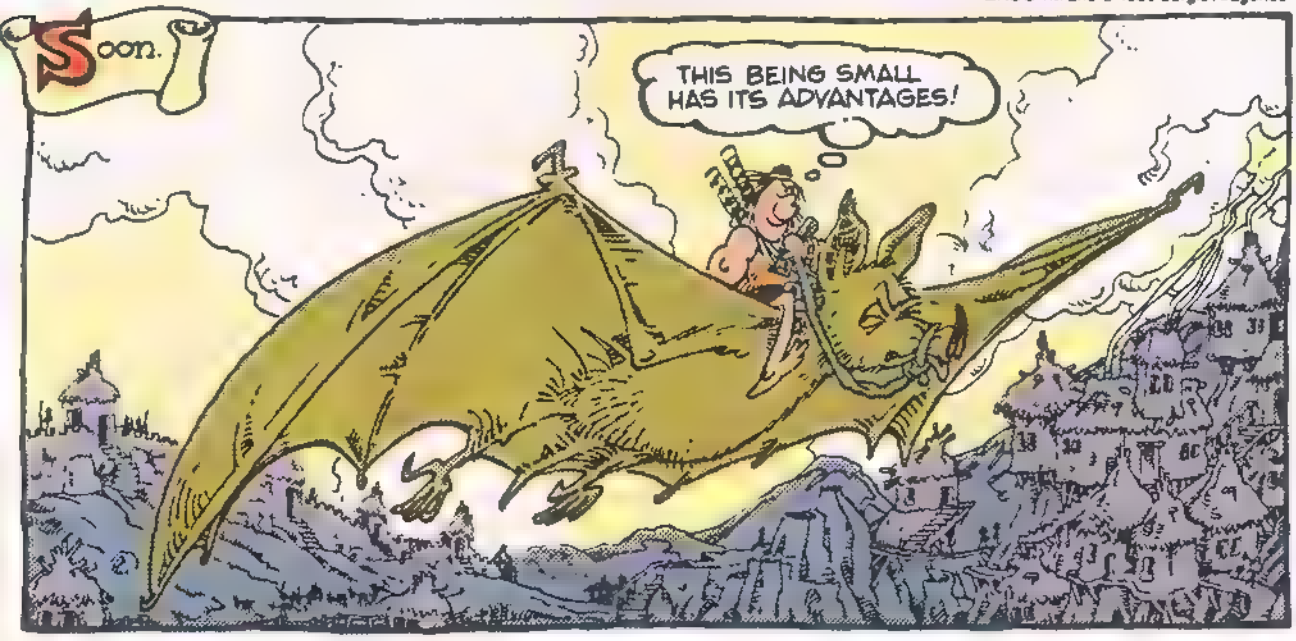

# BEHIND THE LINES

# MY TRIP TO MARVEL PRODUCTIONS
## or
# What I Did On My Summer Vacation

When August rolls around, you begin to realize that the summer's almost over. If you want a vacation (yes, even MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE reporters want vacations, sometimes), it's now or never.

So when August came around this year, I got on the phone to my trusty sidekick, INHUMANOIDS penciler **James W. Fry**. And before long, the two of us were on our way to California, land of sun, surf, and holistic tofu.

Los Angeles, California is filled with things to do and see. Our biggest problem was what to do first. Should we go to Hollywood? Drive down to Disneyland? Lie around on the beach? Or should we visit Marvel Productions?

The choice wasn't even close.

Marvel Productions (better known as "Marvel West" around the Bullpen) is the home of Marvel's fine animation studios. While Marvel's New York office concentrates on publishing comics, Marvel West is busy producing programs such as G.I. JOE, THE INHUMANOIDS, and MUPPET BABIES for television.

Oh yeah, Marvel West is also the home base of a guy named **Stan Lee**.

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You may have heard of Stan; he writes a column for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. He's also Marvel's publisher and resident creative genius.

When James and I arrived at Marvel West, we were stunned at how different it was from the Marvel we were used to. Marvel New York occupies two floors of a Manhattan office building; Marvel West takes up three buildings! At Marvel New York, you're lucky if you can find a window; Marvel West has atriums ("atria"?) with live trees inside its offices.

Like Marvel New York though, Marvel West's best feature is the people who work there. James and I had shown up in the middle of the week. It was a typical workday and no one was expecting us. We figured there was a good chance that they'd just throw us out, but that's not what happened. As soon as we explained that we worked for Marvel New York, everyone treated us like royalty! **Peggy**, the woman at the reception desk, stopped what she was doing to take us on a tour herself.

Since James had recently finished drawing INHUMANOIDS #2, our first stop was the area where the INHUMANOIDS cartoons are produced. **Barbara Ferro** and the rest of the INHUMANOIDS staff couldn't have been

...with King Features Entertainment

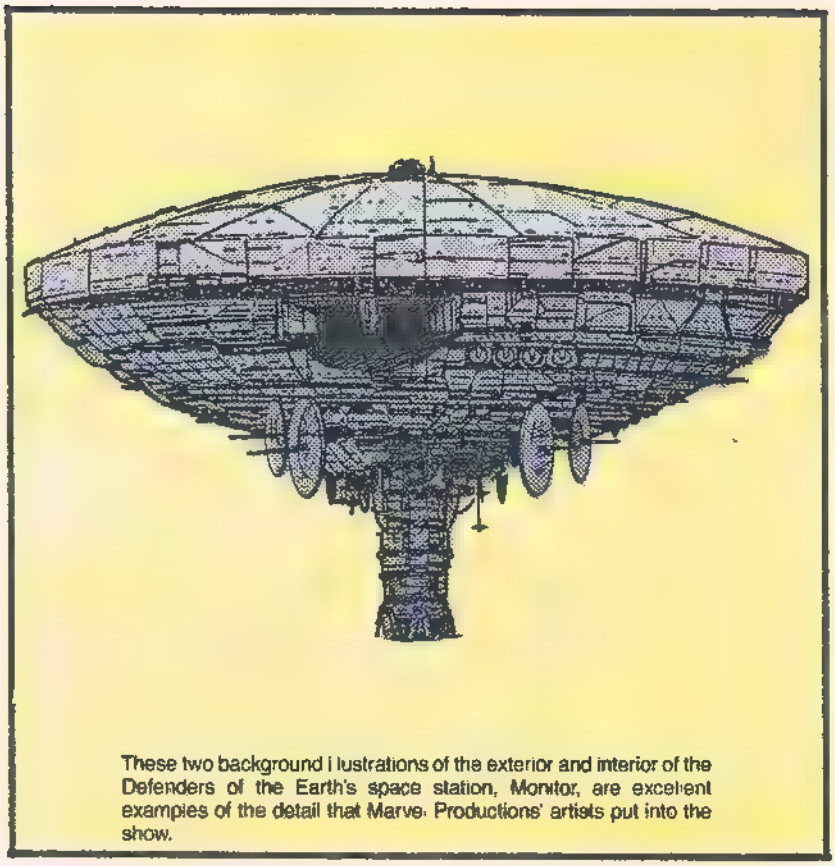
nicer. James showed them Xeroxes of his pencils for the comic book and they showed us some of the artwork being used in upcoming episodes. They seemed as impressed with James's art as we were with theirs.

We discovered that a new season's worth of INHUMANOIDS cartoons is already in the works for next year. We also got a peek at some of the new Inhumanoids you'll soon be seeing. If you think **Metlar, D'Compose,** and **Tendril** look formidable, just wait until you see their friends!

Next up was a look behind the scenes at MY LITTLE PONY 'N' FRIENDS. The series is being done in the same format as SUPER SUNDAY (featuring THE INHUMANOIDS) was: each episode is made up of short installments of series such as MY LITTLE PONY and MOONDREAMERS. The staff gave us copies of the model sheets which the animators use as reference to make sure that they all draw the characters (such as **Gingerbread, Posey,** and **Surprise**) the same way. We also got copies of some MY LITTLE PONY storyboards. Storyboards are a visual blueprint of the episode. They serve as a guide for the animators. The storyboards we saw told the story of a jinxed elf named **Woebegone** and the Ponies attempt to help him escape from the monstrous **Alligatorsaur.**

Stories are only part of what goes into a cartoon, though. And so our next stop was in the backgrounds department. Standing amidst beautifully painted backgrounds for upcoming episodes of MUPPET BABIES, we learned just how much work has to go into a cartoon's backgrounds. Backgrounds are what set the moods for scenes. Even the colors and lighting of the backgrounds play vital roles! A good background enhances everything about a scene—mood, setting, dramatic tension, etc. But a bad background sticks out like a sore thumb!

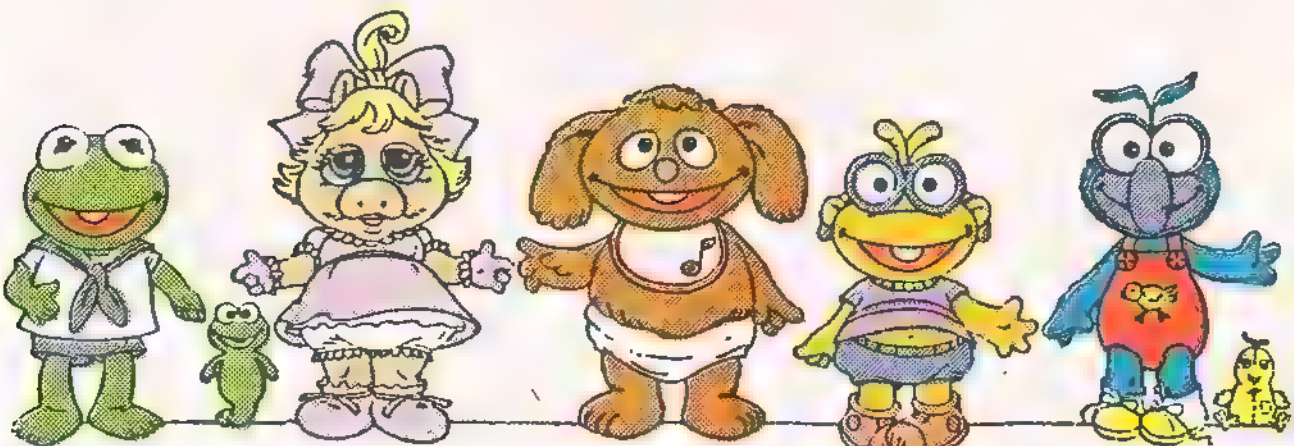
As we left the backgrounds department, we got an unexpected surprise. We stumbled across the office of one of our favorite cartoonists, **Scott Shaw!** Both James and I had been fans of Scott's for years, ever since he did a hilarious story about a spider who gets bitten by a radioactive man and becomes **the amazing Man-Spider** in WHAT IF . . . ? We spent some time chatting with Scott, who now works on character designs for MUPPET BABIES. (Incidentally, did you know that MUPPET BABIES won an Emmy last year?) Meeting Scott was a real pleasure . . . especially since he drew a couple of personalized sketches for us!



These two background illustrations of the exterior and interior of the Defenders of the Earth's space station, Monitor, are excellent examples of the detail that Marvel Productions' artists put into the show.

The next artist we met was one James had met before, **Rick Hoberg.** A longtime comics artist, Rick is now involved in the production of DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH. DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH features three of James's and my favorite comic strip characters of all time: **Flash Gordon,** spacefaring protector of the Earth; **Mandrake the Magician,** possessor of incredible hypnotic powers; his companion, **Lothar;** and **The Phantom,** who guards darkest Africa with the aid of his jungle-honed senses and abilities. Together with their teenage children, these three men are all that prevent the alien monarch **Ming the Merciless** from taking over the world!

One of the things that impressed us the most about DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH was the degree of care with which the characters are being handled. Extensive research was devoted to the history of each character, and whenever changes had to be made,





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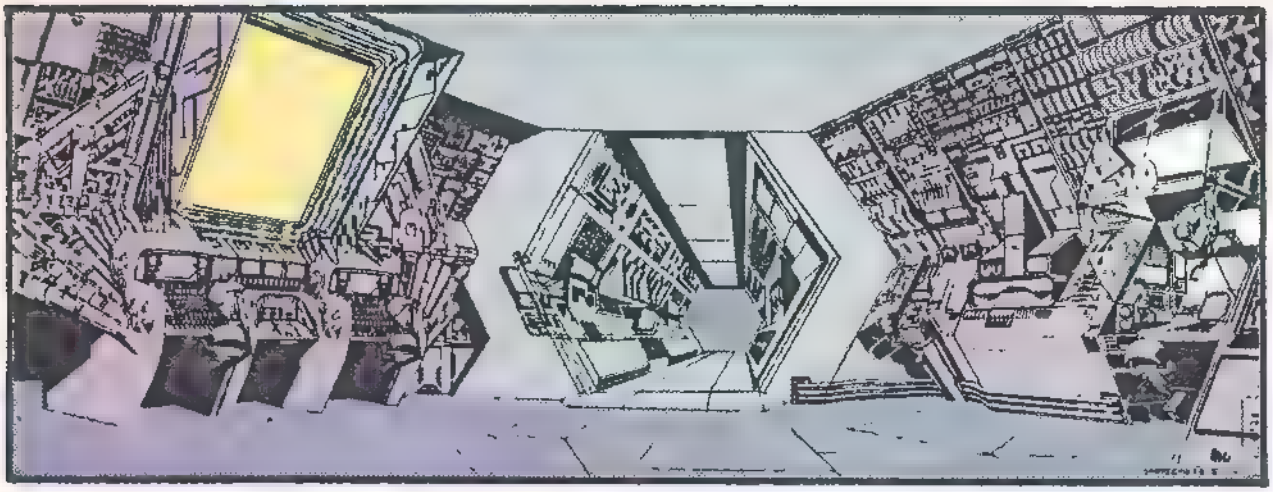


they were made consistent with these histories. For example, The Phantom couldn't wear the striped trunks he wore in his comic strip because the stripes would make animating him very difficult. He also had to abandon the guns he'd worn. But once the DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH staff decided that these changes had to be made, they came up with a way to fit them into the story. You see, like royal dynasties whose crown has been handed down from father to son through the generations, so too has the role of the Phantom been passed from father to son. So as DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH explains, there's a simple reason for any difference between the comic strip and animated Phantoms; the cartoon Phantom is the comic strip Phantom's son!

When we finished talking to Rick, James and I took a short drive over to the studios where voices are recorded for the cartoons. We got to sit in on a recording session as voices were being taped for MOONDREAMERS (from MY LITTLE PONY 'N' FRIENDS, remember?)! As we walked in, **the Snoozers** (including **Bucky**, **Sparky**, **Bitsy**, and **Blinky**) were sailing across the Sea of Unconsciousness. A group of actresses sat in a sound booth, reading from scripts (in several voices apiece) while the director and the rest of us stayed in an outer studio to prevent outside noises from being recorded by mistake.

Our favorite moment of the session came when the Snoozers were supposed to be oohing and aahing over their surroundings. "Pretend you're in Beverly Hills," the director told the actresses. A variety of elfin "oohs" and "aahs" came from the sound booth. Then a tiny voice said, "Look what I bought!"

You may have noticed that I haven't mentioned meeting Stan Lee yet. That's because we had the bad luck to visit Marvel Productions on Stan's day off. But that didn't stop us!

The next morning, we called Stan's secretary **Lonna Poland** to see if we could get in to meet Stan. She explained that Stan was very busy preparing for a trip to New York, but if we could get to Marvel West in less than an hour, they'd squeeze us in.

That was all we needed to hear! I'm not sure how many speed limits we broke getting to Marvel West, but we got there in time.

Lonna turned out to be a wonderfully nice person. She kept us entertained for a few minutes (not an easy task) while Stan was on the phone. And then the big moment came.

When you enter Stan's office, there's no mistaking where you are. An embroidered picture of **Spider-Man** hangs on the wall. A Marvel pinball machine stands in the corner. Videocassettes of Marvel animation line the shelves.

And then there's Stan himself. Stan is exactly the way you would expect him to be—bubbly, fun, and yes, he really does talk like he writes! We talked for a little while and took each other's photos with Stan. Then I asked him to autograph my copy of his book **ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS** which I had brought along. Stan started to write an inscription, but paused to think up a nickname for me. "What starts with 'Sh?'" Stan asked.

James suggested "Shamblin'."

"You know, I created that word," Stan chuckled. And so I became **"Shamblin' Sholly" Fisch** just scant seconds before James was christened "Jolly Jim" Fry.

It was a fantastic visit. Thanks, everybody.

As we left Marvel West, Lonna told us, "Tell everyone at Marvel New York how nice we are and that they should come visit.

"But tell them to make an appointment first."

*—Shamblin' Sholly Fisch*

From left to right, the cast of MUPPET BABIES: Kermit, Piggy, Rowlf, Scooter, Gonzo, Fozzie, Skeeter, Animal, and Bunsen.

# THE MARVEL AGE 1974 (PART I)

Oh, there you are. Glad you could make it, because in this article, we kick off our look at Marvel, 1974!

Big things were brewing in the pages of **THE AVENGERS** in 1974. But the biggest news of the year came in THE AVENGERS #124, which featured a surprise guest artist—the noted painter/illustrator Emphatic **M.C. Escher**! Together with regular scripter **Steve Englehart** and inker **Vince Colletta**, M.C. turned out a story which would go on to become a classic. **The Avengers'** old enemy **Kang the Conqueror** had used his 30th Century science to transform the Avengers into two-dimensional, interlocking figures! Fortunately, **Iron Man** managed to reverse the polarity of one of the transistors in his repulsor ray and restored himself to normal! Freeing his fellow Avengers proved to be a little trickier, but he released them just in time to battle the fearsome menace of **Krongorr, The Creature from Beyond Time and Space**! Krongorr wanted to enslave all of Earth's people and force them to produce the substance which powered his weapons—dacron! No sooner had the Avengers driven off the alien tyrant than they faced **the Space Phantom, the Yellow Claw, the Lava Men, the Sub-Mariner** (who'd invaded the surface after America tried to establish fishing rights too close to his undersea home), **the Masters of Evil**, and the original **Power Man** (now known as **Goliath**, which was the name **Hawkeye** had been using at the time after **Hank Pym** gave it up to become **Yellowjacket** . . . Whew!).

Big things were also taking place in ASTONISHING TALES with the debut of a stunning new series by one of the greatest writer/artists of the 1940's, **Jack Fury**! (You have been following Jack's more recent return in JUSTICE #1 and various issues of SPIDER-MAN, haven't you?). After polio robbed young **Tommy Samuels** of the use of his legs, he figured that he would have to spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair. But then, an alien from a distant galaxy came to Earth searching for people worthy of wielding the mighty power he offered. He came to Tommy and, pronouncing him worthy, transformed him into **Lectron**, Master of the Atom! Tommy found himself imbued with atomic-powered strength and able to fire devasting electron

blasts! By lowering his own atomic weight, he could even fly! It seemed like a dream. But when Tommy's powers seriously injured a gang of thieves he'd captured, the young hero learned that with great power comes great responsibility.

New beginnings would also fill the pages of CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON, thanks to scripter **Steve Englehart** and artist **Sal Buscema**. But it sure didn't look that way as the year opened! **Cap** and **the Falcon** had been captured by **the Red Skull** and imprisoned in a concrete cell beneath Madison Square Garden! Luckily, vibrations caused by the circus above reached the cell and loosened the heroes' bonds. Then, using his shield as a makeshift shovel, Cap spent long, torturous hours digging his way to the surface! That Cap once again beat the Red Skull was no surprise, but the real surprise was yet to come! While **Steve (Captain America) Rogers** was on vacation with his girlfriend **Sharon Carter**, the pair stopped in a greasy spoon diner for supper. Steve thought the short order cook looked familiar but couldn't place him until he heard the cook's voice. That's when the shield-slinger realized that the cook was none other than his long-lost partner, **Bucky Barnes**! Cap had thought Bucky dead, killed by **Baron Zemo** during World War II. But Bucky had survived and settled in the Midwest! Naturally, Cap asked Bucky to team up with him again, but Bucky (now a husband and father of twins) was happy with his life and decided to stay where he was. Cap stuck around long enough to fight his old enemy **Selaar** and cheer Bucky's bowling team on to victory before returning to New York. Once

home, he rejoined the Falcon to save the city from the menace of **Smogg**, the giant man-monster who thrived on pollution! Next, it was off to Europe for a battle with deadly ex-Nazi **Baron Strucker**. As the battle ended, Strucker left Cap and Falc stranded atop an erupting volcano! How could they possibly escape?

Cap certainly faced some impressive perils, but they were nothing next to what CONAN THE BARBARIAN was up against! The troubles began as **Conan** struggled to survive his war with the pig god **Pgiett**. He managed to bring the god's temple down around him, but then it was off to the distant Tulsan Mountains to fight a sinister cult which worshipped an awesome donkey god known only as **Eeyorr**! Conan made short work of the cult members, but then the fireworks really began! Discovering that the source of the god's power was the amulet it wore around its neck, Conan smashed it, destroying the menace of Eeyorr forever. The lure of a promised fortune lured Conan into the ranks of the army of Menasset. But when his enlistment turned into slavery, the barbarian showed the Menassetians that no one makes a slave of Conan! Unfortunately, Conan's battle with the King's guards caught the attention of the court wizard **Krisfar**. By this time, defeating wizards was old hat for everyone's favorite Cimmerian, but Krisfar's death released **Kannga**, the god Krisfar had served! Just as it looked as though Conan would be killed, Krisfar's apprentice donned the wizard's mystic ring, imprisoning the evil god once more. And this time, he'd stay that way . . . at least as long as the apprentice lived.

The only godlike being in DAREDEVIL had a very different form. **Matt (Daredevil) Murdock's** best friend, **Foggy Nelson**, had been possessed by an evil and seemingly omnipotent being from space! Foggy went on a wild rampage, destroying everything in his path! Daredevil realized that Foggy had to be stopped, but also realized that the only way to stop him was to kill him. And that was the answer! DD pretended to try to kill Foggy, and the being left Foggy's body out of self-preservation. Before the being could possess anyone else, S.H.I.E.L.D. captured it in a stasis field. The next few menaces DD faced were more down to earth but every bit as deadly! He beat a number of his old foes—**the Gladiator**, **the Leap-Frog**, **the Matador**, and **Mr. Fear**—in rapid succession. But soon, another old foe, **Killgrave**, showed his purple face once more. Not wanting to attract much attention, Killgrave walked through subway cars, asking for money. And since he could control their minds, the passengers gave him everything they owned! When Daredevil caught him, Killgrave protested that he hadn't broken any laws; the people had **given** him their money. But Daredevil pointed out that he had committed a crime: he hadn't paid for the subway rides!

That's all we have room for this time, be sure to be here next month when we take a look at some **real** comics from 1974. See you then!

# MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

By now, you probably know that this month's column is a lie and that none of the comics discussed actually exist. But here's what you could expect to pay for them if they did exist. Our source is Robert Overstreet's nonexistent The Comic Book Price Guide #312. Remember, Prices can't possibly vary since we're making them all up.

| | CONDITION | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Good | Fine | Mint |
| ■ **ASTONISHING TALES** | | | |
| 22 (1st Lectronn) | 5.00 | 8.00 | 12.00 |
| 23–26 | 1.00 | 3.00 | 5.00 |
| ■ **THE AVENGERS** | | | |
| 119–123 | .75 | 2.20 | 4.40 |
| 124 (M.C. Escher art) | 30.00 | 80.00 | 95.00 |
| 125–130 | .50 | .60 | .75 |
| ■ **CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON** | | | |
| 169–180 | .25 | .80 | 1.00 |
| ■ **CONAN** | | | |
| 28–31 | 2.00 | 2.75 | 4.00 |
| 32–35 | 1.75 | 2.60 | 3.50 |
| 36–39 | 1.50 | 2.25 | 3.00 |
| ■ **DAREDEVIL** | | | |
| 110–115 (not Frank Miller art) | .75 | 1.50 | 2.00 |
| 116–121 (still not Miller art) | .50 | 1.00 | 1.75 |

# NEW TALENT DEPARTMENT

For the past twelve years, the Atlanta Fantasy Fair has been bringing fans and pros in the comic book and other entertainment fields together for gab and to have a great time. This year some comics fans had an additional treat on top of meeting their favorite professionals and hearing the latest news. It was the MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE Art Contest. The prize for the Best Penciler and Inker was the publication of their winning entries in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.

Following the guidelines in THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK, attending aspiring artists from all over the country submitted their samples. The judges were Editor in Chief **Jim Shooter**, Executive Editor **Tom DeFalco**, and Art Director **John Romita Sr.**

With all the fine talent on display, the judges' decisions to find the best penciler and inker were not easy. But find two winners they did and they are: Penciling Division—**Keith Paul** from Swansea, Massachusetts and, Inking Division—**Keith Bowden** from Rockaway, New Jersey!

Keith Paul is twenty-two years old and a recent graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. He's been interested in comics since the age of seven and though he drifted away from comics for a while during his college years, he's just as interested in them as ever. Keith cites his major influences as being **John Buscema** and **Bill Sienkiewicz.**

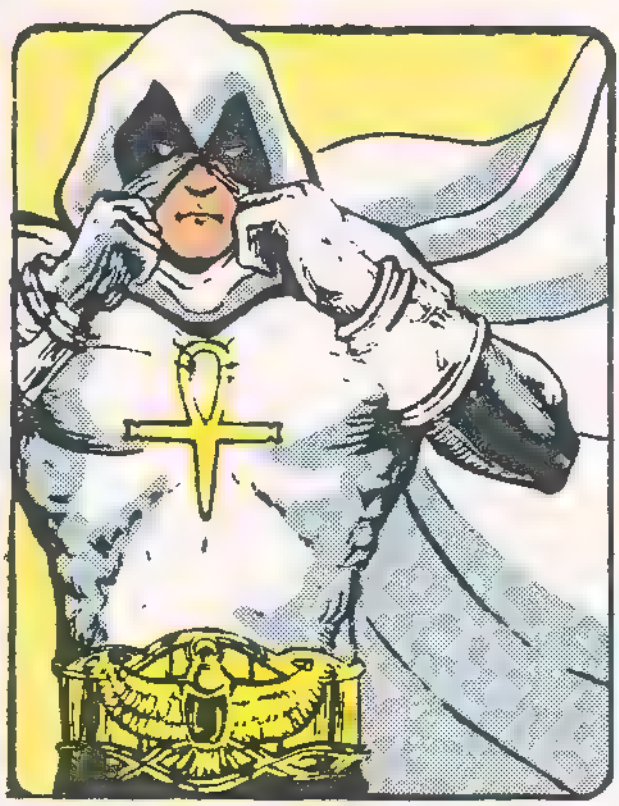
Of his work, John Romita Sr. said, "Keith Paul's pencils show a solid instinct for dramatic storytelling and creating a mood. There are indications of a knack for characterization. With some training under an experienced artist or editor, Keith can pick up the elements he lacks. Together with drawing from life (with instruction) and tenacity, Keith can broaden his scope where needed and develop into a professional comic artist."

Keith Bowden is twenty-three years old and has been studying art for quite a few years, recently completing one year at the Joe Kubert School. Keith told us that he's always been fascinated with the idea of telling stories with pictures and has been working constantly to bring his work up to a professional level. Keith credits **Gil Kane** and John and **Sal Buscema** as being his primary sources of inspiration.

John Romita Sr. said that, "Keith Bowden has not solved all the problems facing professional inkers, but he has shown one knack which is vital. He doesn't lose subtle or intense expressions. If he can retain that ability while he acquires the many other necessary skills, he should do well. He needs to go less to the stipple technique and aim for more variety in weight of line. The rest is a matter of practice and discipline."

Congratulations, again, to both winners! And many thanks to **Lamar Waldron** and **Terry Loggins** of the Atlanta Fantasy Fair who helped make this contest a success

*—Dwight Jon Zimmerman*



Keith Paul

TWELFTH PRECINCT, YEMANA. HUH?
OH, YES, WE'VE HEARD FROM 26 "GIRL-FRIENDS," 27 "SPIDER-MEN" AND EVEN 6 "OCKS"!
GET THE PICTURE, FUNNY GUY? WE'RE BUSY UP HERE AND WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS! GOT IT?
FOUND HER.
AND I CAN'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO HER--OR ANYONE ELSE
SPIDER-MAN!

# THIS IS A LETTERS PAGE?

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE...
TENTH FLOOR
387 PARK AVE. SO.
N.Y., N.Y. 10016

**Yes, this is a letters column. At least, we like to think it is. This month's title was provided by *Jennifer Graham* of Moncton, Canada. Jennifer assures us that she is a true-blue fan, so we'll just have to believe that her title suggestion is only a friendly little play on words. It is, isn't it? You *do* like our letters column, don't you? We are so insecure.**

**We'll feel a whole lot better if you keep sending in your ideas for lettercol titles. We use one every month and it won't be yours unless you send us one! So send them to the address above. The more we get, the happer we'll be.**

**And now—just to prove this *is* a letters column—on to the notes and missives . . .**

Dear MARVEL AGE,

Don't you agree that it's time for **Spider-Man** to become an Avenger after all these years? Just about everyone has been one and it's time that honor went to Spidey. He'd probably enjoy being one too, considering the salary. I know *NOW Magazine* will keep him on the go, but if **Captain America** can roam around the country and still make the meetings so could Spidey. If **Daredevil** can be a member of **the West Coast Avengers**, there should be room somewhere for ol' Webhead.

Think about it.

E Neal Shaw
Charlotte NC

**There are a lot of surprises and changes in store for both the Avengers (both coasts) and Spidey (AMAZING, SPECTACULAR, and WEB) in the months ahead. Whether or not they're along the lines you are requesting, you'll just have to wait and see. But don't worry. We don't think you'll be disappointed.**

Dear Marvel,

Guys, you really ticked me off this time. It was announced in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE that half of the **X-Men** were to be "massacred." How could it be? I've seen them fight the deadliest foes and for the most part they have survived. I read the headline again. By now it was blurred through my tear-filled eyes. I screamed. I had fits of anger. I had to be sedated. Eventually I realized that change is one of the things that makes Marvel marvelous. With a sob, I hoped **Mr. Claremont's** genius would shine through these darkest clouds. I was content to wait.

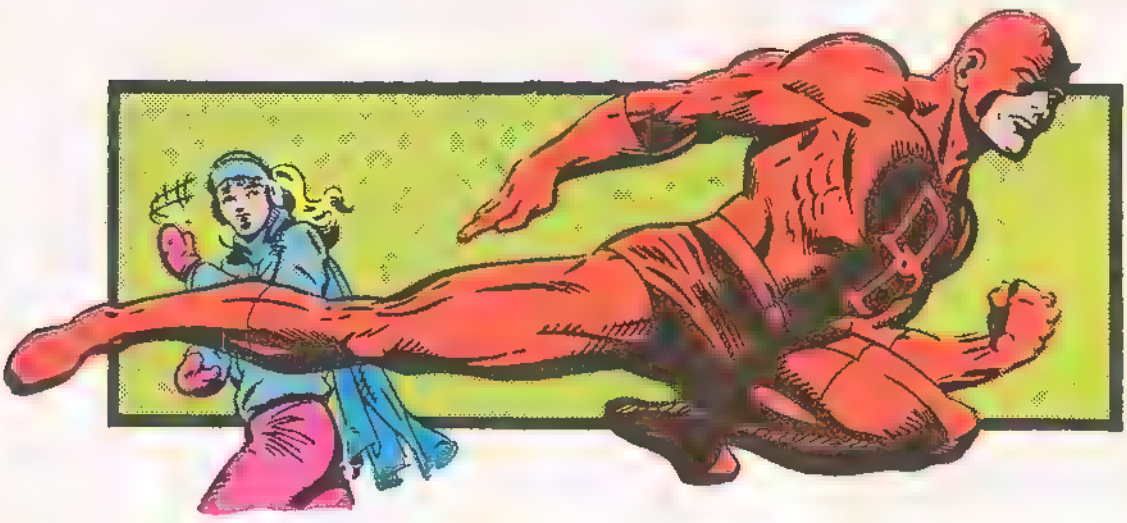
Then I saw it. *The Marvel Mutant Massacre Map!* I realize that in an important saga such as this crossovers are a necessity. And I appreciate being updated on which issues to watch for. But this attempt to turn the deaths of the characters that your readers care about into something funny or comical is really offensive. A sense of humor is another key to Marvel's success. But now isn't the time. Death is nothing to be laughed at. It hurts enough without making light of the tragedy.

I've read Marvel comics for as long as I can remember and this is the first time you've done something like this.

Chuck Clevenger
3107 Wespelt Lane
Cleveland, Tenn.

**You're right, death is very tragic. But sometimes levity can relieve some of the horrible tension that accompanies tragedy. As you've no doubt seen by now, the Mutant Massacre was a tragedy of epic proportions that saw death and destruction on a grand scale. It was also, as you pointed out, a very important episode that is having repercussions far beyond that of the few issues the initial tale took up. We felt the best way to inform our readers of this far-reaching saga was the ad we presented.**

**This issue THE MARVEL AGE LETTER OF THE MONTH honors are shared by two letter writers. Both wrote concerning the definition of the term "mutant," and their explanations sound good to us. We're passing them on to all of the people responsible for the mutant books, including writer Jo Duffy of THE FALLEN ANGELS Limited Series (formerly THE MISFITS). Siryn, discussed below, will be a major part of that series.**



**We select the letter of the month that makes us think, makes us laugh, or addresses a particularly interesting issue and present it here, like this, in a sunny, yellow glow. Next month there may only be one letter, or three, but this month there're these two. Onward . . .**

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I've just finished MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #42. As usual it was another top-notch issue, especially *The Mutant Report* and *It's Genetic*. The letter written by **Bill Morrow** was of special interest though. I also used to think that people (mutants) who had the same powers as their parents could not be defined as mutants according to the definition that is always given in the X-titles. That definition stated that a mutant is a person who possesses a power that his or her parents do not. That has always made me wonder about "mutants" like **Siryn**, **Thunderbird**, and even **Rachel**. It's a nice gimmick for writers to use mutant brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, etc. with the same powers (and even similar costumes), but it does get confusing after awhile.

After doing a biology assignment on mutations (information from the *World Book Encyclopedia*), I found that mutations can be either *somatic* or *germinal*. Somatic mutations cause a localized change and cannot be passed on to offspring. Germinal mutations affect the sex cells and can be passed on to offspring, which would explain the same power being possessed by parents and children as in the case of Banshee and Siryn.

Anthony Gallagher
Melbourne, Australia

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Let me start by telling you that I have been collecting Marvel comics for 22 of your 25 years.

Since I am presently working on my Ph.D. in genetics, I thought I would take it upon myself to comment on your definition of *mutant* (in response to the letter about Siryn in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #42).

Let me address part B of Bill Morrow's letter. "A mutant exhibits powers or attributes that his parents do not have." This is incorrect. If a parent's attributes are genetic (as in part A of Bill's definition) they can by definition be passed on to the offspring. These offspring *are* mutants. (Mutant with respect to the majority of the population —what we in the biz called "wildtype.")

What part B concerns is a new mutational event—the change in the DNA. The child with powers does not define a new mutation, but is in fact a mutant. I hope this clears up the problem

Until **Rogue** does ads for AT&T . . .

Jaymie Sawyer
Laboratory of Genetics
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

How about you guys starting some official fan clubs for a bunch of popular Marvel mags? You could really have a craze here, selling unused covers to devoted Marvelites like myself, conducting popularity polls, sending out newsletters, and stuff like that. Sleep on it and let me know

P.S. If any of your Marvelites out there still love THE MICRONAUTS and are interested in joining a fan club devoted to them, I'm organizing one. For information, write to me.

Mike Niederer
110 Maplewood Place
Kitchener, Ontario
Canada N2H 4L5

**Well, Mike, we can't tell you anything about a Marvel fan club . . . yet.**

Dear MARVELous People,

I just finished reading MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #43 and I loved it! In my opinion, **Howard The Duck** is one of the most interesting characters in the Marvel Universe and it's about time he gets this much-deserved exposure.

I have been collecting comics for about nine years and am considered one of the foremost authorities on comics among my wide circle of collecting comrades, and reading MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE every month keeps it that way Keep up the good work!

Dynamic David Ziegler
1421 De Anza Street
Barstow, CA 92311

**Thanks for the kind words, Dave. We think Howard is pretty interesting too. And we thought so even before he became a movie star!**

Dear Marauders, Murderers, Maniacs, and Marvel People,

Let me introduce myself. I am *Charles Xavier*, the original mentor of the X-Men. I have recently been evaluating **Magneto**, my trusted friend, and my X-Men through a newly created psionic scanner It allows me to clearly observe from the spaceship your writers trapped me in, but you know how determined a bald, slightly stubborn teacher can be. Well, I was extremely proud of the tremendous display of courage and skill my students showed in their battle with **Nimrod**. But just as I was about to take a short break with a certain alien female, your crazy writers threw my students and some other mutants to the mercy of the **Marauders**!

Normally, I take these things very calmly. But now I understand I will be losing half of my beloved team either through death or serious injury. I am shocked and horrified!

Who will be eliminated? **Rachel** is already gone, and is a bit too unstable for my taste anyway **Nightcrawler** is another I would not miss. Much. **Storm**? Do not get rid of her or you will definitely be hearing from me.

According to *The Mutant Reports*, **Psylocke**, **Longshot**, **Havok**, and **Dazzler** are going to join. Havok, maybe Dazzler, definitely. Psylocke, I do not know enough about to make a decision. But Longshot, I will not permit him to join the group Try **Skids** or **Spider-Woman**.

Charles Xavier
Room 314
Starjammer, Lost In Space 6514

**We guess you've seen the beginnings of the changes you're worried about Charles, and more of them will be taking place in the months ahead. I hope you're not too upset with the way everything turned out. Oh, and say hello to Lilandra and company for us.**

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I just read the first four issues of THE NEW UNIVERSE. What can I say? How about this: Back in the early

'60s, Marvel brought life to comics. Today, Marvel brings comics to life.

Mike Cortissoz
82 Captains Row
Chelsea, MA

**And it's letters like yours that bring life to Marvel. We appreciate the good words, Mike.**

Dear MARVUL AIG,

Doo yew need a proo freader? i em verre well with mi speling and grhamer, and I nead a jobb. Please higher me and i wil bee verry happi.

Jon Steckelberg
Cary, IL

**Yur too overkwalifeyed four uz, Jon. We kood nevir aford sumwon of yewr obveeus skils.**

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

How often do coincidences happen in the Marvel Universe? I was reading THE AVENGERS ANNUAL #10 when I found an interesting one. On page three, frame one, a little girl's words caught my attention. She said, "H'lo. I'm **Maddy Pryor**. I been sick. But I'm better now."

The only "Maddy Pryor" I know of is Madelyne "Maddy" Pryor Summers, blushing bride of **Scott "Cyclops" Summers** of **X-Factor**. Are there *two* female characters of the same name in this universe? Or, could they be the *same* person? But the little girl was no more than seven years old in that issue. Curiouser, etc.

Speaking of the same woman, an unidentified "Jane Doe" showed up in X-MEN #206, page twenty-one. She has red hair, is admitted to San Francisco Memorial Hospital, is suffering from multiple gunshot wounds, trauma . . . the list goes on. "**Jane**" is a form of the name Jean, and **Jean Grey** and Madelyn Pryor could almost pass as twins. "Jane" resembled both women, but since Madelyne is the only one who has dropped out of sight, I'm willing to bet they are the same person.

Adrianne Cook
Seattle, WA

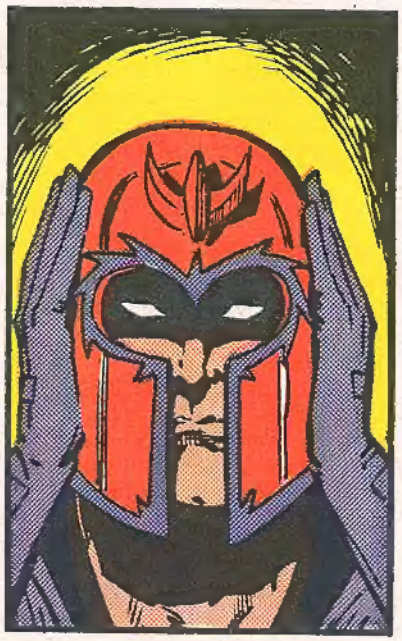
**Well, Adrianne, your deduction is absolutely spot on concerning the "two" Maddy Pryors. As for your second hypothesis, we're not at liberty to say "yes" but we can tell you that it's definitely not "no."**

Dear Crew,

Just wanted to drop a line and let you know how much I really loved MARVEL AGE ANNUAL #2.

Davis Tullock
115 Chadwick Rd.
Louisville, KY

**It only had kind words for you, too. Thanks for writing.**



Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I have a suggestion. Publish a few pin-ups each month. I know everyone will love the idea. I'd also like to add that MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE is destined to be an all-time great literary piece. It's informative, interesting, and can't be beat for the price. You have all done well.

While I'm here, I'd like to say that I'm looking for a pen pal out there among the Marvel readers. I am 16 years old, have been reading comics for four years, and enjoy X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS, ALPHA FLIGHT, FANTASTIC FOUR, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, and POWER PACK.

And a pat on the back for the fantastic MARVEL SUPER HEROES ROLE-PLAYING GAME. Until **Wolverine** is declawed, Make Mine Marvel!

Robert Correia
143 Tanglewood Drive
Swansea, Mass. 02777

**We'll continue to publish a select pin-up or two whenever possible, Robert, but we were under the impression that the vast majority wanted more pages of news and information. Marvel Press provides some beautiful, eye-catching 22" × 34" high-quality posters that are available at your favorite comic shops. These give you wonderful, full-color wall hangings without ripping up your favorite issues. If we get letters requesting more pin-ups, though, we'll be the first to comply. Never let it be said that we don't listen to our public. Let us know what you think.**

**And we like the MARVEL SUPER HEROES ROLE-PLAYING GAME ourselves. It's a great way to bring the Marvel action to life while waiting for the next exciting issues to hit the stands. It's available from our friends at TSR, Inc. and we'll pass your words of praise on to the guys in Wisconsin.**

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Does a navy blue sport coat go with greyish pants?

Stephen Alexander Beals
7728 Eagle Valley Pass
Indianapolis, Indiana

**Only when worn with a polka-dot derby on alternate Thursdays.**

**And on that rather strange fashion suggestion, we'll take our leave until next month. Just remember, this *is* a letters column and this *is* the end. Bye, now.**

**U.S. POSTAL SERVICE**
**STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION**
**(REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3685)**

1. Title of Publication: MARVEL AGE
2. Date of Filing: October 6, 1985.
3. Frequency of Issue: MONTHLY.
3A. No. of issues published annually: 12.
3B. Annual subscription price: $6.00 for 12 issues.
4. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.
5. Complete address of the headquarters of general business offices of the publisher: 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.
6. Full names and complete mailing address of publisher, editor, and managing editor: Publisher: Stan Lee, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Editor: Jim Shooter, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Managing Editor: Jim Shooter, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.
7. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.): Sheldon Feinberg, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006. Joseph Walsh, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006. Joseph Calaman, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006. Cadence Industries Corporation, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006. Paul Hendin, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006. James E. Galton, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006. Jim Foy, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006.
8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: None.
9. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates (Section 411.3, DMM only). The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes. (Check one.) _ Have not changed during preceding 12 months. _ Have changed during preceding 12 months. (If changed, publisher must submit explanation with this statement.)
10. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION.
A. Total No. Copies Printed (net press run): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 94,408. Single issue nearest to filing date: 89,671.
B. Paid Circulation: 1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 88,858. Single issue nearest to filing date: 83,700. 2) Mail subscriptions: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 2,825. Single issue nearest to filing date: 2,400.
C. Total Paid Circulation: (Sum of 10B1 and 10B2): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 91,483. Single issue nearest to filing date: 86,100.
D. Free Distribution by mail, carrier, or other means, samples, complimentary, and other free copies: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 1,487. Single issue nearest to filing date: 1,070.
E. Total Distribution: (Sum of C and D): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 92,970. Single issue nearest to filing date: 87,170.
F. Copies Not Distributed: 1) Office use, left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 1,438. Single issue nearest to filing date: 2,501. 2) Returns from News Agents: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: — Single issue nearest to filing date: —
G. Total (Sum of E, F1 and 2 should equal net press run shown in A): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 94,400. Single issue nearest to filing date: 89,671.
11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(signed) Thomas Costello — Business Manager

Dear Santa,

I've been really good this year, so when you're making up your list, it'd be great if you could include these things from the . . .

# MARVEL® COMICS Wish List



## SPECIAL BOOKS

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Marvel Try-Out Book | $12.95 |
| ☐ Iron Man | 6.95 |
| ☐ X-Men Paperback | 6.95 |
| ☐ Frankenstein Paperback | 8.95 |
| ☐ Marvel Universe Handbook | 6.95 |

## GRAPHIC NOVELS

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ The Death of Captain Marvel | $5.95 |
| ☐ Dreadstar | 4.95 |
| ☐ New Mutants | 4.95 |
| ☐ Star Slammers | 5.95 |
| ☐ Killraven | 5.95 |
| ☐ The X-Men | 5.95 |
| ☐ Superboxers | 5.95 |
| ☐ Futurians | 6.95 |
| ☐ Heartburst | 4.95 |
| ☐ Dazzler | 6.95 |
| ☐ Tales of Asgard | 5.95 |
| ☐ The Aladdin Effect | 5.95 |
| ☐ Revenge of Monolith | 6.95 |
| ☐ She-Hulk | 6.95 |
| ☐ The Witch Queen of Acheron | 6.50 |
| ☐ Greenberg the Vampire | 6.95 |
| ☐ Marada the She-Wolf | 5.95 |
| ☐ Hooky | 5.95 |
| ☐ Dr. Strange | 5.95 |
| ☐ Alien Legion | 5.95 |
| ☐ Dracula | 6.95 |

## SPECIAL COMICS

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ G.I. Joe Yearbook | $1.50 |
| ☐ Silver Surfer #1 | 1.25 |

## POSTERS and PORTFOLIOS

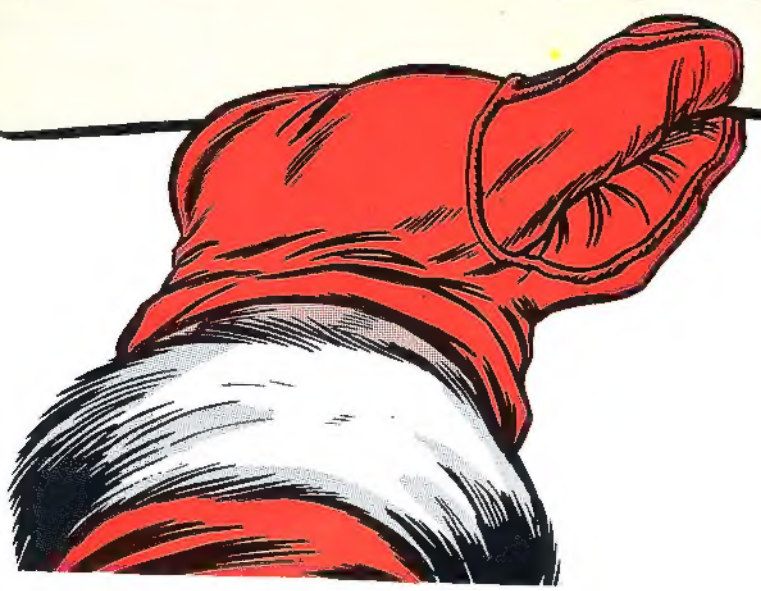
| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Dr. Strange | $3.95 |
| ☐ The Avengers | 3.95 |
| ☐ Cloak & Dagger (1) | 3.95 |
| ☐ Cloak & Dagger (2) | 4.95 |
| ☐ Incredible Hulk | 3.95 |
| ☐ The She-Hulk | 3.95 |
| ☐ The White Queen | 3.95 |
| ☐ Punisher | 3.95 |
| ☐ Wolverine | 3.95 |
| ☐ The Mighty Thor | 3.95 |
| ☐ The Silver Surfer | 3.95 |
| ☐ Phoenix | 3.95 |
| ☐ X-Factor | 3.95 |
| ☐ The New Universe | 3.95 |
| ☐ Marvel's 25th | 3.95 |
| ☐ Black Cat | 4.95 |
| ☐ Storm | 4.95 |
| ☐ Punisher (2) | 4.95 |
| ☐ Cloak & Dagger Portfolio | 12.00 |

And if you have trouble finding any of these, I sure wouldn't mind:

_____

_____

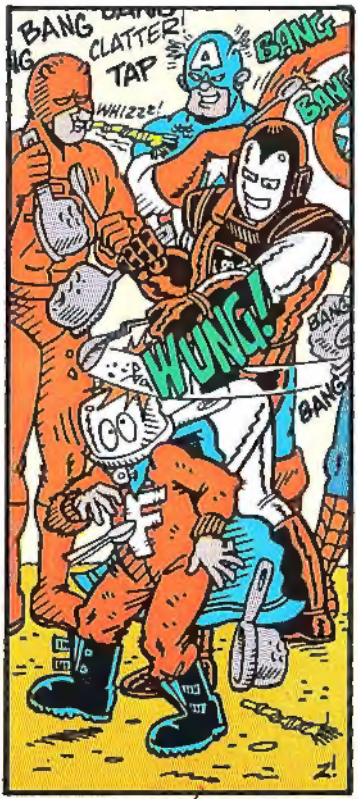
_____



# THE 1987 MARVEL AGE® CALENDAR

## JANUARY

STARTS A YEAR WITHOUT FEAR!



MIKE CARLIN—WRITER RON ZALME—ARTIST PAUL BECTON—COLORIST

WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
GE DAY!
OUCH!
1
I'M SURE HE MEANT HAPPY NEW YEAR'S DAY!
THWIP!
3
WHO'S A PRETTY BOY?
7
...OR TAKE BOB WIACEK OUT FOR HIS BIRTH-DAY -- IT'S TODAY!
WHEN HE FINALLY DOES SHAVE AGAIN...
8
...WE BET HE'LL BE MIGHTY SORE!
9
10
14
TODAY IS RUDY NEBRES'S BIRTHDAY!
HOLA.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, STAN KAY!
15
16
17
HEH, HEH-- KNIGHT DEPOSIT!
1ST NATL BAN
WHO TH' HECK IS FRED BAUMANN?!
21
BIRTHDAY WISHES, HOWARD MACKIE! EEYOW!
23
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KLAUS JANSON!
24
HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOHN ROMITA SR.!
28
YESTERDAY WAS FRANK MILLER'S BIRTHDAY!
:SIGH:
29
IT'S FRED HEMBECK'S BIRTHDAY!
30
I JUST CAN'T SLEEP WITHOUT MY NIGHTMASK ON!
31